Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council
and
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Valley Center, CA / San Pasqual Reservation

Document Tracking
(for use by CWPP Review Committee)

ORIGINAL CWPP

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Revisions requested, letter to CWPP originators: __________________
Revisions received: __________________
Date CWPP approved by Committee: __________________
Final signatures obtained: __________________
CAL FIRE authorized: __________________
Approval letter to CWPP originators: __________________
PDF Posted to Website: __________________

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INTRODUCTION

This update of the Valley Center Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by the Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council and San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians as an update to the 2009 Valley Center CWPP (approved 2011), and incorporates for the first time planning information for the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians’ Reservation lands, both fee and trust. This Plan was developed with guidance and support from the Resource Conservation District / Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, Valley Center Fire Protection District, San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, United States Forest Service and United States Bureau of Land Management. This CWPP supplements San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use documents referenced in Appendix A. Information for this update was obtained and coordinated through a number of meetings and follow-up correspondence with representatives of local agencies and other stakeholders within the planning area. (See Appendix B, CWPP Meeting Tracking Documents).

The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians Reservation is landlocked within the area of responsibility of the Valley Center Fire Safe Council, therefore, this CWPP is a joint effort of the Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council and San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians’ Reservation communities. This is in recognition of the common bonds between the communities, and of the common conditions of sharing joint issues of weather, terrain, fuel types and conditions, and fire history. The purpose of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to identify and prioritize wildfire preparedness projects that will protect the Greater Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation communities in the event of a wildfire. It recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures within the Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council (GVCFSC) and San Pasqual Reservation boundaries.

This update of the original CWPP (GVCFSC 2008) builds on the planning and vision of the 2009 Plan by:

1. Recognizing the common bonds between the Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation communities and the need for a joint approach to planning and managing the common wildfire threat to our communities.
2. Recognizing and itemizing the efforts of the GVCFSC in the time period since the development of the original Plan to fulfill the goals of the Plan.
3. Recognizing the present and future changes in the community land use in response to the 2014 County General Plan Update and the installation of the Central Valley Sewer.
4. Recognizing the changes in agriculture’s role in the community and the hazards of abandoned groves.

The information in this community-based plan provides a community-specific view of wildfire protection that clarifies and refines the Greater Valley Center community / San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians’ priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface.
The goals of this CWPP update are as follows:

1. Enhance life safety for residents and responders of the GVC / San Pasqual Reservation planning area.
2. Mitigate undesirable fire outcomes to property and infrastructure.
3. Mitigate undesirable fire outcomes to the environment and quality of life.
4. Reduce fuels in the highest hazard areas of the planning area.
5. Promote fire safety education and awareness throughout the planning area.
6. Increase collaboration with stakeholders within and adjoining the overall planning area.
# Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council
and
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation, California

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SECTION I: COLLABORATION

A. COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives directly involved in the development of the Greater Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation CWPP comprise the development team. The CWPP Development Team and Community Advisors roles and responsibilities are indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1. CWPP Development Team

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION / NAME</th>
<th>ROLES / RESPONSIBILITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Courter, Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council President</td>
<td>Facilitator and Preparer, primary role update and rewrite the CWPP as indicated through the collaborative process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Joe Napier, Valley Center Fire Protection District Chief</td>
<td>Input and review of the document and development of action plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Harold Rodriguez, San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department</td>
<td>Input and review of the document and development of action plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battalion Chief Ken Yarger, San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department</td>
<td>Input and review of the document and development of action plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Jim Davidson, Deputy Fire Marshal, Valley Center Fire Protection District</td>
<td>Input and review of the document and development of action plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Kinmont, Principal Fire Management Specialist, Calyx Consultants</td>
<td>Guidance on content and editorial support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION / NAME</th>
<th>ROLES / RESPONSIBILITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Mike Shore, VCFPD Fire Marshal</td>
<td>Information and collaboration on fire prevention projects planned by the VCFPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyd Long, Vice President for Security and Transportation, Valley View Casino</td>
<td>Provided information on personnel numbers, guest numbers and evacuation plans for Valley View Casino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Pugh, Finance Director, Valley Center Municipal Water District</td>
<td>Provided information on current land use in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Yeager, Treasurer, Valley Center Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Provided Information on current land use and business mix in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Schaller, Valley Center Substation Commander, San Diego County Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>Collaborative development of the Community Evacuation Plan</td>
</tr>
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Discussions were held with Rex Hambly of the US Bureau of Land Management, with additional discussions and trips to local BLM sites being planned for the near future. This Plan will be updated in to reflect the results of those talks and field investigations.
B. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The CWPP planning area is approximately 76,000 acres, and is located in unincorporated northern San Diego County east of Interstate 15 and south of State Highway 76. Its boundaries are the Deer Springs Fire Protection District to the west, Pauma Valley and the Pala and Rincon San Luiseño Band of Mission Indians Reservations to the north, U.S. Forest Service Cleveland National Forest and a small amount of Bureau of Land Management to the east, and the City of Escondido to the south. Approximately 85 percent of the land is in private ownership. At the heart of the planning area is the community of Valley Center, defined by the San Diego County Department of Land Use as a “Country Town” with two commercial “villages”, North and South. The Greater Valley Center planning area is described in further detail in Section A, below.

The San Pasqual Reservation is located in the south-central portion of the planning area. The Reservation has a total area of 3,081 acres, comprised of 1,925 acres of land held in trust for the tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (“trust land”) and 1,136 acres of land owned by the tribe (“fee land” – the tribe pays property taxes on it to the County of San Diego). The land is not contiguous, and is divided into three separate administrative units. The San Pasqual Reservation planning area is described in further detail in Section B, below.

B.1. Greater Valley Center

Historically, the Greater Valley Center community was a rural area with an agricultural base focused on avocados and citrus, however, that is evolving due to rising water and land costs and an increasing County population, which has resulted in the abandonment of groves and other agricultural lands. This abandonment of groves has resulted in a large number of dead and dying trees in the area, greatly increasing the overall fire hazard. This has also increased the amount of land available for large-lot developments, greatly increasing the potential population, and for a limited amount of more intensive land uses. An update in the County General Plan in 2014 formalized the current land use divisions of the community, establishing two “village” areas of higher density residential and commercial development, a “North Village” and a “South Village” within a “Country Town” planning area, with lower density and large lot sizes outside of these areas. At this time, there are small commercial facilities in both “Village” areas. In addition, there are also some smaller retail and commercial areas near I-15 near Old Castle Road, and near the intersection of Lilac Road and Anthony Road, which is scheduled for future expansion.

The additional commercial facilities and expansion of current facilities in the “Village” areas along Valley Center Road have been given a boost by the recent completion of the Central Valley Center Sewer and the widening of Valley Center Road to four lanes. Planned or ongoing improvements to the road network on Cole Grade Road and on East Valley Parkway, which is currently under construction for additional lanes within the City of Escondido, will also aid development and as a benefit, enhance the use of the road network for area evacuations.

As noted above, a number of significant subdivisions and associated commercial and retail developments are in process or are planned within the planning area. This may significantly increase the population and will continue to bring in significant new growth in upcoming years. This will put a larger population than ever before at risk of being impacted by wildfire, and a potential population of new citizens with no experience living within wildland urban interface (WUI) and associated issues who will potentially be subject to evacuation in the event of catastrophic fires, such as the fire storms of in 2003 and 2007. An active educational effort directed at these new citizens will be necessary to avoid potentially catastrophic losses in the future.

The GVCFSC planning area is characterized by many prominent hills with characteristic granite boulder outcroppings and stands of chaparral shrubland, drained by winding ephemeral streams lined with oak, sycamore, and willow woodlands. There are many hidden valleys with beautiful vistas, especially of the Agua Tibia, Palomar and Rodriguez Mountains to the north. Pine Mountain is the highest peak within the planning area at 4,221 feet

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in elevation, located on Rancho Guejito. The hills and drainages form part of two major watersheds that lead to the Pacific Ocean, the San Luis Rey River to the north, and the San Dieguito River to the south.

The rolling hills and valleys covered with chaparral, riparian and grassland habitats are intermixed with many homes, agricultural areas and areas for livestock activities (cattle ranches, corrals for horses, pens and pastures for sheep, goats and llamas.) This is classic example of the Southern California Wildland – Urban Interface (WUI).

Land Use and lot sizes have considerable influence on the characteristics of the community road system. The scattered nature of residences outside of the “Country Town” area creates considerable morning and evening traffic, especially near schools and on Valley Center Road. Several tourist destinations, especially the Valley View Casino (San Pasqual Reservation) and Harrah’s Casino (Rincon Reservation) and Bates Nut Farm on Woods Valley Road, have become major tourist attractions. Traffic from these businesses have significantly increased the pressure on the road system. Community members general prefer two-lane roads that follow the natural topography, many with beautiful oak canopies, as the signature of its circulation system, but larger arteries have become necessary as the population has grown.

According to the San Diego Association of Governments the Valley Center Community Planning Area has an estimated current population of approximately 20,000 people, expected to rise to about 22,800 by 2020. By 2035, the population is expected to increase to 25,500 persons (http://datasurfer.sandag.org/download/sandag_forecast_13_cpa_valley-center.pdf).

There are no officially designated neighborhoods or sub-areas within Valley Center, except for areas of the central area designated by the County of San Diego as the North Village and South Village. However, locals generally use geographic highlights or major roads to reference areas within the GVC planning area. The following is a list commonly used place names: Paradise Mountain, Woods Valley, Southern Village, Northern Village, Betsworth, Old Castle, Lilac Corridor, Castle Creek (or more generally, I-15), West Lilac, Keys Creek, McNally, Fruitvale, Cool Valley, Yellow Brick Road, Pauma Heights, and Ridge Ranch.

B.1.1 Roads and Evacuation Routes

Primary access into the Greater Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation planning area is via three routes: Valley Center Road (S-6) from the south, which serves as the main linkage between the city of Escondido and Valley Center; State Highway 76 to both Cole Grade Road and Valley Center Road from the north and northeast; and Old Castle and Lilac Roads from Interstate 15 from the west. These routes also are the primary potential evacuation routes out of the community. Secondary access and potential alternate evacuation routes include North Lake Wohlford Road to Escondido to the south; West Lilac Road to Vista in the west; Circle R Drive to I-15 to the west; and Couser Canyon and Lilac Roads to Highway 76 to the north.

B.1.2 Weather and fuel conditions

The geographic position of southern California at mid-latitudes and its coastal setting have resulted in the development of a Mediterranean climate, characterized by mild winters, cool summers, infrequent rainfall, moderate daytime onshore breezes, high relative humidity, and frequent early morning clouds that disperse to hazy afternoon sunshine. The San Diego area is famed for its mild, dry-summer subtropical, sunny weather throughout the year.

Rainfall occurs in winter when the oceanic high-pressure center is at its weakest and farthest point south, and as the fringes of mid-latitude storms occasionally move through the area. The majority of rainfall (>85%) occurs during the period from November to April and is associated with Pacific storms generated in the Gulf of Alaska. However, occasional "Pineapple Express" storms emanate from the tropical Pacific (Hawaii vicinity) and can
bring heavy rains that are enhanced locally through mountain uplift. Rainfall is strongly concentrated in the months December through March, although precipitation is lower than any other part of the U.S. west coast. The summer months are virtually rainless except for occasional thunderstorms in the mountains. The area is subject to both droughts and floods. El Niño conditions occur periodically, about every two to seven years, bringing wetter than usual winters to southern California.

The local climate is typical of inland valleys in San Diego County. The annual average temperature in the GVCFSC planning area vicinity is 62.5°F. Average monthly maximum temperatures range from 65°F in January to 88°F in August, while average minimum temperatures range from 37°F in December to 58°F in August (National Weather Service, Escondido and San Pasqual weather station data 1900-2007). Winters are moderate with temperatures ranging from 67°F during daylight to readings of just above freezing at night. Days between 11 December and 14 February are considered potential freeze dates. Figure 1 below shows the monthly temperature regime for 1900-2007. Most notably for fire planning, the fall and winter are punctuated by warm, dry Santa Ana winds.

**Figure 1. Average temperature regime from 1900-2017 (Data Source: NWS, Escondido and San Pasqual weather station)**

Annual precipitation over the period of record ranges from a low of 3.7 inches in 2002 to 33.8 inches in 1978. Figure 2 below shows the annual precipitation from 1900–2007. January is usually the wettest month with an average of about three inches of precipitation, while June-August are usually the driest months with a mean of 0.1 inches of precipitation (see Figure 3). Overall annual average rainfall ranges from 12.00 inches at the lower elevations to 28.50 inches in the upper reaches of Pine Mountain.
Fire is a natural part of the southern California landscape. Local habitat types have adapted during their evolution to tolerate and sometimes benefit from the indigenous fire regime. The planning area contains significant acreages of plant communities that can benefit or degrade from altered fire conditions, affecting the natural biodiversity supported by these habitats. Most native plant communities in the GVC area exhibit both exceptional fire hazard and complex ecological adaptation to fire.

The hot dry summers with low humidity and dry vegetation that is summer dormant until winter rains return are highly conducive to wildland fires. Combine this hazardous fuel condition with Santa Ana winds originating from interior deserts and population centers imbedded in natural habitat areas and an exceptionally dangerous fire condition emerges. Large fires in recent years can occur in any month of the year and have extreme weather conditions rather than fuels as the driver. This is usually the onset of strong offshore flow wind events in the form
of Santa Ana winds - dry, vegetation desiccating, moderate to high velocity winds coming from the northeast and east. The easterly winds, while rarer, are the most dangerous, as the wind direction is most directly aligned with local mountain passes and canyons. This allows the wind flow to pass through the mountains more easily compared to the wind flow of the northeast winds, which are more closely aligned with the axis of local ranges. These desert winds result in high temperature and extremely low humidity conditions, resulting in High to Extreme fire danger conditions during the time they are blowing.

Data from San Diego Gas and Electric's network of local weather stations, as shown on the map in Appendix C, has provided new insight into the areas of the community most at risk from fires driven by these winds. The map shows wind velocity data from a typical easterly Santa Ana wind event in December 2017. Data shows peak wind velocities in the easterly parts of the community, close to the highest peaks. The highest wind velocity is at Hellhole Canyon, which is frequently one of the top two windiest spots in the County for easterly Santa Ana wind events. The mechanism producing this phenomenon is the wind acting like water in a river flowing over a large rock – termed a "hydraulic jump" by local meteorologists – producing a wave which follows the terrain initially to produce local high intensity winds, but then lifts the wind flow to above average local ground level downstream, or over the western areas of the community, bringing high wind velocities only to the hill tops. The result of this is that large wind-driven fires are concentrated in the eastern areas of the community, as can be seen by the prevalence burn areas there in the Fire History map in Appendix C. The implications of this for community fire planning are important, and indicate that prevention, structural hardening and other activities could be emphasized in the eastern areas, without, of course, neglecting the balance of the community.

Over the last decade, rainfall has become less predictable and periods of multi-year drought have occurred. This has resulted in a large-scale understory plant and tree die-off in the chaparral plant communities, of which Valley Center is one. The result has been the loss of large numbers of oak trees to pests such as the Golden-Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB), and the development of large acreages of dead and dormant brush, increasing the amounts of dry, dead fuel in the area. This has led to a corresponding increase in fire intensity and the number of incidents of extreme fire behavior.

B.2. San Pasqual Reservation

Contained within the borders of the Valley Center FSC Planning Area borders and sharing joint issues of weather, terrain, fuel types and conditions, fire history and access is the San Pasqual Reservation. The Reservation is composed of 1,924 acres of land held in trust for the tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and 1,136 acres of "fee land" owned by the tribe, but not incorporated into the BIA holdings, for a total of 3,061 acres of land administered by the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians. The administered area is divided into three administrative Districts, A,B, and C.

Land use in the area is primarily rural-residential, with a population of approximately 1,400 tribal members, tribal member descendants and renters. There are approximately 400 homes, including permanent structures, manufactured homes and trailers. Land use is not regulated by California state standard building codes, therefore fire resistance of many structures is poor.

Commercial use is dominated by the Valley View Casino on Nyemmi Pass, off North Lake Wohlford Road, whose impact extends into the wider community as noted above. The Casino has an average daily attendance of over 6,800 guests, with about 900 employees distributed across three work shifts. Other commercial enterprises include the Woods Valley Golf Course on Woods Valley Road and a commercial eucalyptus grove on North Lake Wohlford Road.

A Reservation park and ball field has been developed on North Lake Wohlford Road.
B.2.1. Roads and evacuation routes

Major access to the Reservation is via North Lake Wohlford Road and Woods Valley Road from Valley Center Road. Major roads are all 2-lane paved roads and minor roads range from 2-lane paved to graded gravel surfaces. Duro Road, Kumeyaay Way, Nyemmi Pass Road, Kewaak Way, Canal Road and North Canal Road are considered potential evacuation routes and as such would be targets for fuel reduction efforts to increase their safety.

Public sites include an elementary school and day care center on Kumeyaay Way, the Tribal Administration Center also on Kumeyaay Way, and the Tribal Cultural Center on North Lake Wohlford Road.

C. Identification of Community Values at Risk

Using technology and local expertise, the sponsors of this CWPP have developed a series of maps depicting the site and situation of the Greater Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation communities (see Appendix B).

The process of developing a CWPP has helped the GVCFSIC identify and clarify priorities for the protection of life, property and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The WUI zone poses a tremendous risk to life, property and infrastructure and is one of the most dangerous and complicated situations a firefighter faces.

It is the desire of the GVC Fire Safe Council to address this at a progressively more detailed resolution, eventually ending up at a neighborhood-by-neighborhood scale. Using technology and local expertise, the GVC Fire Safe Council has developed a series of maps depicting the site and situation of the Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation communities. The maps act as a visual aid from which community members can assess and make recommendations. These maps will be revised periodically at larger scales to reflect this effort, and to reflect the information developed by a collaboration with local meteorological personnel to map wind regimes and resulting fire microclimates.

There are numerous areas where groups of people congregate within the planning area, and are areas of special concern. Lists of areas for Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation are listed below.

C.1. Valley Center

Event Areas. Bates Nut Farm has multiple large and small events throughout the year, creating large temporary crowds and heavy traffic along Woods Valley Road, Paradise Mountain Road, and Valley Center Road.

Schools. Within Valley Center there are eight public schools and three known private preschools operating. All of the public schools are located off Cole Grade Road with the exceptions of Lilac School and Valley Center Middle School. Some of these schools are designated as potential evacuation shelters or areas of refuge (AORs) by the American Red Cross.

Parks and Community Centers. There is a Community Center on Lilac Road, and 2 community parks: Adams Park on Cole Grade Road and Star Valley Park on Vesper Road. Another area, an open field on Lilac Road owned by the Valley Center Municipal Water District, is used for parking for nearby community events.

Campgrounds and Trails. Woods Valley Campgrounds all have campsites available year-round. Lake Wohlford is a year-round fishing lake. Hiking trails are available along Valley Center Road and in Hellhole Canyon Preserve.
Medical Facilities. A commercial center with doctor’s and dental offices is located in the North Village. A number of dental offices are in the South Village with one additional in the Lilac Corridor area. At least three private residential care facilities for elderly and three homes for disabled adults are also in place.

Churches and religious institutions. There are 10 churches in the area, most in the North Village area. Two religious retreats, Camp Caroline and Metta Forest Monastery hold retreats and have groups using their facilities. There are currently seven known churches that hold services in Valley Center.

Environmental Reserves. The planning area is a developing rural to semi-rural community and has a large number of critical environmental resources to be protected under this Plan. The list is evolving, and currently includes:

1. Hellhole Canyon Wilderness Preserve, and recreation area in the Paradise Mountain area
2. Brown Property, a 126 acre parcel recently acquired by the County along Keys Creek near Lilac Road for preservation and recreation.
3. Rancho Lilac, 903 acres of working cattle ranch owned by CalTrans used as a mitigation bank for the widening of SR-76
4. Lancaster Mountain - Keys Canyon - Lilac Creek. This long, narrow area is mainly important for the riparian and oak woodland habitats that exist in the stream bottom. Lancaster Mountain contains mixed chaparral, wildlife habitat and is a scenic landmark.
5. Moosa Canyon. This area contains a large canyon with oak and riparian woodlands. A small waterfall is present in a portion of the canyon. The area is an important wildlife habitat because of the continuous nature of the woodlands and includes some chaparral covered slopes on the canyon sides for wildlife habitat.
6. Keys Creek. This is a riparian and oak woodland lined stream bottom which provides a high quality wildlife habitat and is a scenic community resource. The Keys Creek Preserve, at the corner of Lilac Road and Via Piedra, preserves 190 acres of the scenic canyon as open space.
7. Rancho Guejito - Pine Mountain. This is the most important natural resource area in the planning area. Resources in this area include extensive riparian woodland, large growth mixed chaparral and oak woodlands on north facing slopes and a small area of coniferous trees in the eastern portion. The southernmost population of the Pacific madrone tree grows on Rodriguez Mountain. This tree is normally associated with northern California.
8. Burnt Mountain. Resources to be protected in this area include oak woodlands and inter-mixed heavy chaparral. This area serves as wildlife habitat and visual landmark.
9. Chaparral Ridge. The Resource Conservation Area is designed to encompass the large, scenic rock slab north of Woods Valley Road.
10. The Brook Forest Conservation / Mitigation Bank includes approximately 224 acres of conserved land located along Betworth Road, within San Diego's North County MSCP. The Bank consists of a large, contiguous block of biologically-rich land supporting a diversity of habitats and native species, including 237 species

Because of the large amount of accessible rural land in the area, especially riparian land and native grasslands, the potential for larger amounts of land to be used for mitigation banks and environmental reserves in the future is great.
C.1.2. San Pasqual Reservation

**Event Areas.** Valley View Casino on Nyemmi Pass, off North Lake Wohlford Road, whose impact extends into the wider community as noted above. The Casino has an average daily attendance of over 6,800 guests, with about 900 employees distributed across three work shifts. Other commercial enterprises include the Woods Valley Golf Course on Woods Valley Road and a commercial eucalyptus grove on North Lake Wohlford Road.

**Schools and Other Gathering Places**

a. Elementary School, 16152 Kumeyaay Way, Valley Center CA 92082  
b. Day Care Center, 16152 Kumeyaay Way, Valley Center CA 92082  
c. Tribal Administration Center, 16400 Kumeyaay Way, Valley Center CA 92082  
d. Tribal Cultural Center, 25630 Lake Wohlford Road, Escondido CA 92027 (Duro road has an Escondido address)

**Parks and Community Centers.** A Reservation park and ball field has been developed on North Lake Wohlford Road.

D. **Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability**— All fire jurisdictions within the area as identified by this CWPP are listed below with information as available on number of firefighting personnel and fire response vehicles.

Primary fire and medical response is by the Valley Center Fire Protection District and San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department, who have an automatic aid agreement for the area. Primary wildland response is by CalFire as the area is either in the State Responsibility Area (GVC) or they have responsibility by agreement (San Pasqual).

Three agencies have resources in the CWPP planning area, the Valley Center Fire Protection District, the San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department, and CalFire. Their resources are as follows.

The Valley Center Fire Protection District has a Type I structural engine and an ambulance housed at its headquarters station at 28234 Lilac Road. It has a Type I engine, a Type 6 paramedic squad and a 2000 gallon tactical water tender housed at Station 2 at 28205 North Lake Wohlford Road. There are 2 additional reserve Type I engines, one at each station, that can be staffed during Red Flag events or emergencies. There are 4 command vehicles. In addition there is an ambulance staffed by Mercy Medical stationed at Station 1.

Valley Center staffing consists of a district Fire Chief, 2 Division Chiefs, six Captains, six Engineers and 20 firefighters with 5 personnel per station per shift. Each Type I engine has a Captain, Engineer and Firefighter on board, one of whom is also a Paramedic. The squad has 2 Firefighter / Paramedics on board.

The San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department has one Type I Engine with 1000 gallon capacity, one Type II brush engine with a 500 gallon capacity, and a 100 foot aerial truck. There also two command vehicles. All vehicles are housed at the headquarters station at 16460 Kumeyaay Way.

San Pasqual staffing consists of a Department Chief, a Battalion Chief, 6 Captains, 3 engineers and 9 firefighters. There are 3 persons assigned to the Type 1, and 3 persons assigned to either the brush engine

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*GVCFSC / SPBMI CWPP*  
*February 2018*
or the truck, per shift.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CalFire) has apparatus at 3 stations responding to the Valley Center area, all with 2- type 2 brush engines per station and 3.0 person engine staffing. Stations are the Miller Station (Station 15) at 9127 West Lilac Road, the Rincon Station (Station 70) at 16971 Highway 76, and the Vesper Station (Station 71) at 14946 Vesper Road.

Typical wildland response levels are detailed in Section V, appendix D.

The partnership that exists between the listed organizations and citizens in this CWPP allows the communities of Valley Center and the San Pasqual Reservation to reduce hazardous fuels that could ignite residences and commercial facilities, particularly during Santa Ana wind fire conditions. Maintaining properties with the appropriate defensible space is a key factor to protecting lives and properties.

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 regulations.

SECTION II: PRIORITIZED FUEL REDUCTION TREATMENTS

A. Priorities

1. Community Education. Community based efforts to encourage individual residents to enhance defensible space around their homes, and a separate but related program to develop such spaces around the homes of the Reservation Elders. This includes a strong community education component.

2. Fuel Reduction Modification and Maintenance. Improve the safety of local evacuation routes by first, improving fuel clearances along Valley Center potential evacuation routes as well as 4.5 miles of Reservation roads and then maintaining these clearances through regular maintenance. See the map of potential evacuation routes in the overall community and notes on Reservation routes in the Appendix.

3. Development of New Fuel Reduction Systems. Conduct territory-based fuel treatments by exploring the feasibility of developing new fuel break systems where appropriate and redeveloping and maintaining the existing fuel break system on Reservation lands.

B. Existing Projects

The following are current existing projects throughout the GVFC area.

1. Community Events. Chipping events have been a feature of GVFC activities since 2010. Currently chipping is done at a central site on a bi-monthly basis, and residents are invited to bring their yard waste to the site through a direct email notification, ads in local papers, and postings on social media. Last year an average of about 120 truck / trail loads of material were processed at each event, resulting in the generation of over 500 cubic yards of mulch. The mulch was largely returned to the community for residents' use to mitigate flashy fuel growth. Funding is in place for this to continue into the first quarter of 2019.

2. Community Education and Outreach. Wildfire education classes and seminars are being held several times a year to educate local residents on clearance requirements and techniques, as well as safety issues. The next ones are planned for May and October, 2018, with others in the concept stages.
3. **Fuel Reduction.** Since 2009 the GVCFSC has hired local contractors to improve the safety of local evacuation routes by identifying the areas presenting the greatest threat to residents, then mowing the entire road rights of way, limbing trees and removing dead and dying woody material. This has resulted in improving the entire length of Lilac and Old Castle roads, Woods Valley Road and Paradise Mountain Road, and portions of Couser Canyon Road.

C. **Planned Projects 2018-2019 GVCFSC / VCFPD**

1. Vegetation Management and defensible space
   a. Chipping days to continue, both centralized and in certain neighborhoods as needed
   b. Year-round DSI Inspection
   c. Year-round weed abatement inspections
   d. Published list of contractors for DSI cleanup
   e. Continued enforcements of strong vegetation management ordinances within the community
   f. Continue to identify areas for fuel reduction programs
   g. An inventory of abandoned grove areas and the development and execution of mitigation plans for them
   h. Continuing to distribute Fire Blocking Gel to the community and maintaining existing stocks.

2. Community Education
   a. Annual Wildland Fire Symposium
   b. Annual Fire Operations in the Wildland – Urban Interface workshop(s) in conjunction with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County.
   c. Annual evacuation drills with CERT
   d. Annual CERT training – including windshield assessment skills
   e. 4th of July fireworks patrol
   f. Safe Summer Program for schools
   g. Ready-Set-Go training for HOAs and Mobile Estate managers
   h. Continued campaign for registration of Cell Phones for alerting residents
   i. Continued planning for evacuations with SO and other agency partners
   j. Annual Fire Protection Day at Bates Nut Farm

C. **Planned Projects 2018-2019 San Pasqual Reservation**

1. Vegetation Management
   a. Roadside fuels management along evacuation routes, including Duro Road to Lake Wohlford Road, Kewaak Way, Canal and North Canal Roads, and others areas as needed.

   b. Redevelopment of the Reservation fuel break system

   c. Development defensible space around Tribal elders’ homes

2. Community Education
   k. Annual Department Open House and community safety fair
   l. Develop additional community education programs
SECTION III: TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

In cooperation with the County of San Diego, the Greater Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation 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.

Following is a description of structural challenges, including proposed methods of improvement and implementation proposed for the community:

In cooperation with the County of San Diego, the Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council supports and promotes Firewise activities. The GVCFSC supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitability through meeting County of San Diego Building and Fire Code requirements.

The partnership that exists between the signatory and the stakeholder federal, state, local, and private citizens allows the community of GVC to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels that could ignite residences and commercial facilities during Santa Ana wind fire conditions.

It is felt that decreasing structural ignitability, especially through the hardening of structures against ember impingement and penetration, is primarily a function best left to individual residents to accomplish, with role of local agencies and organizations being to bring the importance of structural hardening to the attention of residents, and also provide both carrots and sticks to move the residents down the desired path toward greater personal and family safety. This will, with time, greatly increase the overall fire safety of the community at large. Also, providing some hardening resources, such as fire gel, economically to the residents facilitates this effort.

The partners in this CWPP have in the past and will continue this effort with the following activities:

1. **Inspections.** CalFire and the VCFPD conduct inspections of property and while looking for compliance with local fire codes counsel residents on methods to enhance the safety of residents' properties. If requested the GVCFSC will informally advise residents on what can be done and suggest appropriate resources.

2. **Community education.** Since 2010, the partners in this CWPP have presented fire preparedness information at Spring seminars and fall awareness days, this effort will continue. The presentation of community classes such as the FSCSDC sponsored S-215 for Community Groups and Fire Safe Councils, done on an annual basis since 2012, has been an activity much anticipated in the community. These efforts will continue, with plans in process to build and deploy mobile video facilities into the community.

3. **Chipping services.** Since its inception, the GVCFSC has provided free "Chipping Days" to area residents, where they can enhance the defensible space around their homes and businesses by trimming and removing undesirable vegetation and bringing it to a central location for disposal. This wildly popular program is currently being run on a bi-monthly basis through early 2019.

4. **Fire Blocking Gel distribution to residents.** Starting in 2009, the GVCFSC has distributed Barricade Fire Blocking Gel to area residents. This last year, in partnership with the County of San Diego and Barricade International, the existing stocks of gel in the community were collected, revitalized, and along with additional gel, redistributed into the community. Approximately 640 gallons of gel were distributed to area residents in 2017- early 2018. This program will continue into 2018.

Other programs are being developed and funded as needs and opportunities arise.

GVCFSC / SPBMI CWPP

February 2018
The Community Wildfire Protection Plan as developed for Greater Valley Center and San Pasqual Reservation

- 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.

James Courter, President, Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council  

Joe Napier, Chief, Valley Center Valley Center Fire Protection District  

Victoria  

Allen Lawson, Chairman, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians  

Date  

Date  

Date  

March 5, 2018  

March 5, 2018  

3/13/18
SECTION IV: SIGNATORS - page 2

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been developed for the communities of Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council and San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians.

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

[Signature]
Chair of CWPP Review Committee

(name)

4-9-18
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:

[Signature]

STATE AGENCY (authorizing entity — required for finalization)

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Monte Vista Unit
Tony Mecham, Unit Chief

5-20-2018
Date
SECTION V: Appendix A: References

Documentation Affecting Fuels Reduction, Building Construction, and Community Fire Protection.

LIST OF REFERENCES:

1. County of San Diego Building Code, available at:

2. County of San Diego Consolidated Fire Code (current version), available at:
   http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/docs/cosd-fire-code.pdf

3. County of San Diego Defensible Space for Fire Protection Ordinance (current version), available at:

4. County of San Diego, Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2010), available at:

5. County of San Diego, Fire, Defensible Space and You....
   http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/fire_resistant.html

6. CAL FIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) http://frap.fire.ca.gov for additional maps, data
   and documents


8. www.firesafecouncil.org

9. www.firesafesdccounty.org

    Valley Center Fire Safe Council

11. www.livingwithfire.com
SECTION V: Appendix B: Meeting Tracking Documents

Initial Concept Phase

August 29, 2017 Lunch meeting with GVCFSC President Jim Courter and San Pasqual Chief Rodriguez and San Pasqual Battalion Chief Yarger about forming a San Pasqual Reservation FSC and developing a CWPP for San Pasqual Reservation, at Valley View Casino.

September 23, 2017 Discussion between Pres. Courter and Valley Center Fire Protection District Deputy Fire Marshal / Captain Jim Davidson about the need for a CWPP update and the roles of the FSC and FPD in rewriting and updating the current Valley Center CWPP.

November 13, 2017 CWPP discussion at Valley Center Fire Protection District Headquarters. GVCFSC President Jim Courter, Chief Napier, Captain Davidson, Robin Kinmont in attendance. Discussion of the need for an update of the existing CWPP and division of responsibilities. Jim Courter to write document, others to support. Effort to focus on updating and editing current document.

November 20, 2017 Email discussion between Jim Courter and SPRFD Chief Ken Yarger about including San Pasqual Reservation in Valley Center CWPP.

Meeting with Pres. Courter, SPRFD Chief Rodriguez, Chief Yarger, Capt Davidson, Robin Kinmont on details of collaboration between GVCFSC, San Pasqual FD and VCFPD.

Data collection and document writing phase, emails used:

November 13, December 3, and December 26, 2017 Steve Vanderberg, San Diego Gas and Electric Meteorology, emails on wind flow and fire history in Valley Center

December 7, 2017 Chief Ken Yarger Roads of the San Pasqual Reservation


December 22, 2017 Valley Center Community Evacuation Plan, forwarded from SDSO through Chief Napier to Jim Courter, Hard Copy only.

December 20-23 Chief Ken Yarger email exchanges on San Pasqual statistics

December 26, 29, 2017 Tony LoPresti, Jim Pugh, Valley Center Municipal Water District. Statistics on current land use as derived from Valley Center Municipal Water District water meter connection data

January 2, 2018 Chief Joe Napier, vegetation response plan VCFPD / CalFire
January 4, 2018 Captain Jose Galeano, CalFire Battalion 7 priorities and projects.

January 5, 2018 Chief Harold Rodriguez, San Pasqual maps and images

January 9, 2018 Captain Jose Galeano CalFire Battalion 7 priorities and projects.

January 9, 2018 Mapping support from Captain / Deputy Fire Marshal Jim Davidson

January 10, 2018 Roibin Kinmont – editing the draft for submission

January 10, 2018 Mapping Support from Battalion Chief Ken Yarger, SPRFD

January 10, 2018 Editorial comments from Chief Rodriguez

January 10, 2018 Editorial comments from Capt Davidson

February 27, 2018 Editorial Comments from Chief Joe Napier, Valley Center Fire Protection District

February 28, 2018 Editorial comments from Chief Harold Rodriguez and Bat. Chief Ken Yarger, San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department

March 8, 2018 Discussion about collaboration and follow-up email exchange with Rex Hambly, United States Bureau of Land Management

March 10, 2018 Discussion on collaboration and planning for field trips to local BLM areas with Rex Hambly, United States Bureau of Land Management. The trips are planned for early April.

March 23, 2018 morning email and evening face to face discussion with Steve Vanderberg SDG&E Meteorology. Receipt of Santa Ana Wind map from the December, 2017 event

Other discussions occurred informally with Chief Napier, Chief Yarger, Robin Kinmont, Captain Davidson, representatives of the US Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Valley Center Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Hellhole, Valley Center Trails Association, Valley Center Vaqueros, Valley Center CERT, the owners of the Hide Away Lakes Mobile Home Community, owners of the Skyline Ranch Country Club and the Valley Center History Association on collaborations, future revisions, future projects, etc. This information will appear in future revisions of this Plan. Also, discussions are ongoing with residents of the area about incorporating Pauma Valley into our area of operations.
SECTION V: Appendix C - 1 Maps

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2 a-e: Communities Map

Figure 3: Assets at Risk

Figure 4 a-g: Topographic Maps: North West, North Central, North East, West Central, Central, East Central, South

Figure 5: Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Temporary Evacuation Points

Figure 6: Fire History 1910 - 2010 (From SANGIS)

Figure 7: Vegetation Classification

Figure 8: Watersheds

Figure 9: Land Ownership

Figure 10: Government lands: State, USFS, BLM and Tribal trust and fee lands (Reservations)

Figure 11a: Potential Evacuation Routes per 2014 plan

Figure 11b: Potential Evacuation Routes as amended 2017
Valley Center WUI Preplan Zones:

1. Paradise Mountain
2. Sunset Drive and Yellow Brick Road
3. Ridge Ranch
4. Guejito Grade Road, Old Guejito Grade Road, Old Wagon Road
5. Lake Wohlford Road (All Communities)
6. Anthony Road and Valley Stream Road
7. Sierra Rojo to the communications tower
8. Pauma Heights and Rim of the Valley
9. McNally Road
10. Couser Canyon Road
**VALLEY CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT VEGETATION FIRE RESPONSE PLAN**

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<th>North Zone CAD Problem Nature/Call Types</th>
<th>NORTH ZONE Response Plan</th>
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<td>Vegetation Fire-Low</td>
<td>4 Engines: 3 Type III Engines, 1 Type I Engine, 1 Chief Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetation Fire-High</td>
<td>5 Engines: 3 Type III Engines, 2 Type I Engines, 1 Water Tender, 1 Chief Officer</td>
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<td>Vegetation Fire-Red Flag</td>
<td>7 Engines: 5 Type III Engines, 2 Type, 1 Engines, 1 Water Tender, 2 Chief Officers</td>
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<th>Monte Vista CAD Problem Nature/Call Types</th>
<th>MVU Response Plan SRA</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Dozers</th>
<th>Handcrews</th>
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<td>1 Air Attack, 2 Tankers, 2 Helicopters</td>
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<td>2 Dozers, 4 Handcrews</td>
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<td>Vegetation Fire-High/Red Flag</td>
<td>13 Engines: 10 Cal Fire Type III Engines: 3 Local Type I Engines, 2 Water Tenders, 1 Division Chief, 2 Battalion Chiefs</td>
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No amendments to this document have been submitted or approved.