Mount Laguna
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
San Diego County, California

Document Tracking
(For use by CWPP Review Committee):

ORIGINAL CWPP
Date 1st submittal received: __________ CWPP Reviewed: __________
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: ______________________

CWPP AMENDMENT(S)
Date Amendment received: 1/11/18 Amendment Reviewed: 2/18/2018
Requested Amendment revisions letter to CWPP originators: 2/11/18
Revisions received: 3/28/18
Date Amendment approved by Committee: 3/28/18

Local signatures obtained on Reviewed/Approved Document: 3/28/18
CAL FIRE final signature/authorization: 4/20/18
Approval letter to CWPP originators: 4/25/18
PDF Posted to Website: 4/26/18
Introduction
This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council with guidance and support from the County of San Diego, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the United States Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. This CWPP supplements San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use documents referenced in Appendix A.
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ADDENDUM – AUTHORS CONTACT INFORMATION

This information is not included as part of the final public CWPP document for protection of the applicant's privacy as per the Privacy of Information Act. It will be attached as a separate document for internal use only and must be updated/revised periodically throughout the life of the document.
### SECTION I: COLLABORATION

#### A: COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives directly involved in the development of the Mount Laguna CWPP are included in the following table. Their organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

**CWPP Development Team:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization/Name</th>
<th>Roles / Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council</td>
<td>Primary development of the CWPP and decision making, community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Cochran, President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego County Fire Authority</td>
<td>Provides input and expertise on County Standards and Regulations. Primary development of the CWPP and decision making, community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Uribe, Community Liaison Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Laguna Improvement Association</td>
<td>Provides local information and expertise for nearby community managed areas, including hazard mitigation activities, water system integrity and environmental compliance. Multiple agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Kalinoski, President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)</td>
<td>Facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards. Provides input and expertise on forestry fire and fuels, and Fire Wise concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Converse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Safe Council of San Diego County</td>
<td>Provides educational outreach and support for pre-wildfire disaster planning, defensible space, fuel reduction and hazard assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Conservation District Greater</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britney Munoz &amp; Kristin Baker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Forest Service</td>
<td>Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry and fire, fuels and Fire Wise concepts. Assists in the development of community protection projects and priorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Krailing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Community Overview – Description of topography, population, climate, land uses, businesses, schools infrastructure, fire safe councils, and other applicable traits specific to this CWPP area.

The Laguna Mountain Recreation area and the unincorporated community of Mt. Laguna are located in southeastern San Diego County in the Cleveland National Forest and Descanso Ranger District; latitude: 32.872 N longitude: 116.418 W.

The Laguna Mountain is a heavily used recreation area in the Cleveland National Forest with camp grounds, opportunities for backcountry camping, the Pacific Crest Trail and the Noble Canyon National Recreation Trail. In the winter, it provides the opportunity to experience snow. The Sunrise Highway, which runs through the mountain, is the only National Forest Scenic Byway in the Cleveland National Forest. Annually, over 500,000 visitors.

The community has an active Fire Safe Council representing all stakeholders and works collaboratively with Federal, State, and local fire agencies in fuel reduction efforts and the establishment of defensible space. The Mt Laguna FSC is a recognized NFPA Fire Wise community.

The community is at risk for wildfire and is classified as Fire Regime (risk) Condition Class 3. The Mt Laguna area is classified as an ISO 3/3x area.

Between 1944 and 2017, there were a number of major fires in the Mt. Laguna area that consumed over 300,000 acres, destroyed over 600 structures and caused 8 deaths.
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 Mount Laguna Community (Appendix B).

Values at risk within the community are:

1. Water Districts, tanks and systems.
2. Private and leased houses and cabins.
4. Cleveland National Forest lands and private properties.
5. Wildlife.
6. SDSU Observatory.
7. Campgrounds, recreational and picnic areas.
8. USFS and Cal-Fire Fire Stations.
10. FAA Radar Station.
11. Native American Natural, cultural and historic resources.

The Laguna Mountain area includes private property homes with permanent residents, approximately 175 summer cabins on Forest lands, a general store, recreational equipment store, two restaurants, two lodges, US Post Office, USFS Visitor Center, and Community Center for visitors.

Mt. Laguna is also home to the San Diego State University Observatory which hosts scientists from all over. It is one of the last dark sky resources remaining in the United States. Stevenson Peak and Monument Peak rising well over 6000 feet are choice locations for locally and regionally significant communication facilities both private and public.

Among these are the FAA Radar station which monitors air traffic into and out of San Diego, Orange County and Los Angeles International airports and the communication facilities that handle all 911 emergency calls from the Imperial Valley.

A major fire in Mt. Laguna could cripple the SDSU Observatory, air traffic in Southern California and all emergency contact to and from the Imperial Valley.
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:

Fire protection for the Mt Laguna CWPP region is provided by Cal Fire along with San Diego County Fire. They provide the primary dedicated fire protection and EMS services. One local fire station is staffed full time, the Cal Fire/SDCo Fire Station 49 at Mount Laguna. US Forest Service is the primary wildland and federal properties provider in the area as this community is within the Cleveland National Forest from nearby Camp Ole, Station 42.

**San Diego County Fire Authority Station 49, Mt. Laguna 10385 Sunrise Highway, Mount Laguna**

Next available resources include:

- USFS Camp Ole Fire Station E-342 & E-349 10955 Sunrise Highway, Mount Laguna
- USFS Glen Cliff Fire Station E-345 & WT-245 29810 Old Hwy 80, Pine Valley
- USFS Cameron Fire Station E-343 29810 Kitchen Creek Road, Pine Valley
- USFS Descanso Fire Station E-341 & E-348 24321 Viejas Grade Road, Descanso
- Cal Fire SDCo Fire Station 44 Pine Valley 28850 Old Hwy 80, Pine Valley
- Cal Fire Station 45, Descanso 9718 River Road, Descanso
- Cal Fire Station 51, Cuyamaca 34520 Engineers Road, Julian
- SD County Station 42, Lake Morena 29690 Oak Drive

Along with the volunteers of this active Fire Safe Council, there are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers in the Mt Laguna Communities.
SECTION II:  PRIORITIZED FUEL REDUCTION TREATMENTS

The partnership that exists between the listed organizations and citizens in this CWPP allows the community of Mount Laguna to reduce hazardous vegetative 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, and 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 oaks and pines continue to die. Chaparral and brush still need to be removed from forest areas and around all structures. Egress and ingress on roads need to be completed and those areas that have been reduced of fuel need to be maintained since the plants continue to grow. Wildfire in the Lagunas will threaten the opportunities to the public listed above but will also threaten surrounding vulnerable communities: Pine Valley, Julian, Descanso, Campo, and Alpine.

A. Priorities

1. Ongoing fuel reduction and maintenance of defensible space around structures in the community to meet San Diego County, California State and Forest Service standards and requirements.
2. Ongoing removal of dead, dying and diseased trees adjacent to structures and throughout the forest.
3. Sustainable fuel reduction along ingress and egress roads to ensure safe passage.
4. Upgrading current access roads to homes and cabins to make them passable by heavy firefighting equipment and emergency vehicles.
5. Identify and evaluate current and new products available for structure hardening and to train residents in their use and installation.
6. Annual seasonal maintenance of those areas around structures that have already been reduced of brush and other combustible materials.
7. Continued educational activities to sustain and further community awareness and commitment to work together to provide a healthy forest environment for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors as well as safe for the habitat and wildlife.
8. To provide accessibility for firefighting equipment to the MLIA’s two water storage tanks.
9. To provide accessibility for firefighting equipment to water storage supply connections.
B. Existing Projects
1. Annual property inspections (DSI) by the USFS.
2. Mt. Laguna Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project by the USFS.
3. Providing vegetation /weed abatement dumpsters for defensible space projects.
4. Dead fuels collection points in collaboration with USFS
SECTION III: TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

In cooperation with the County of San Diego, the Mount Laguna CWPP supports and promotes fire safe activities and supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitibility 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 and CDF, the Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council supports and promotes Firewise activities. The Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitibility through meeting County of San Diego building and Fire Code requirements as well as US Forest Service regulations.

The partnership that exists between the above listed organizations allows the community of Mt. Laguna to improve all structures and to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels that could ignite residences and commercial facilities during Santa Ana winds and other fire conditions. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has already declared the removal of dead, dying and diseased trees and "exigency" task. Maintaining properties with the appropriate defensible space is a key factor in protecting lives, wildlife and property.
The Community Wildfire Protection Plan as developed for Mount Laguna CWPP:

- Was collaboratively developed, and meets the intent of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRSA) 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 migration 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 grantee agency or agencies listed shall meet with local, state, and Federal environmental compliance requirements.

President of Fire Safe Council submitting this CWPP
Joseph Cochran, Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council

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

USFS Fire Service
Ethan Krailey, Battalion Chief

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
Tony Mechem, Unit Chief

N/A
TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE (if applicable)
(Name of Tribe)
The Community Wildfire Protection Plan as developed for Mount Laguna CWPP:

- 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.

President of Fire Safe Council submitting this CWPP
Joseph Cochran, Mount Laguna Fire Safe Council

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

USFS Fire Service
Jason Kraling, Battalion Chief

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
Tony Mecham, Unit Chief

N/A
TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE (if applicable)
(Name of Tribe)
This Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been developed for the community Mount Laguna.

The following entities attest that the standards listed above are proposed to be met and mutually accept the content of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Mt. LAGUNA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
(Joseph Cochran, President)

Mt. LAGUNA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
(Doug Reed, Board Member)

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (as applicable)
(USFS Fire)
(Battalion Chief)

TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE (as applicable)
(SDCo Fire/ Cal Fire)
(name, Battalion Chief)

Date

Date

Date

Date
This Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been developed for the community/ies of [Community Name(s)].

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

[Signature]
Chair of CWPP Review Committee
(name)

3-28-18
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)

4-20-20
Date

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

Mount Laguna CWPP
SECTION V: Appendix A: References

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

LIST OF REFERENCES:


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


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.livingwithfire.com


11. http://www.readyforwildfire.org
Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council

Members contributing to this document.
Mr. Joe Cochran
Mr. Doug Reed

Fire Representatives:
Battalion Chief Jason Krayling, USFS
Battalion Chief Larry Converse, Cal Fire
Fire Captain Dave Carney, Cal Fire
Community Liaison Coordinator Bob Uribe, SD County Fire Authority

Meeting Dates:
October 21, 2017 Meeting, Mt. Laguna Community Center
November 18, 2017 meeting, Mt. Laguna Community Center
December 11, 2017 Fire Safe Council of San Diego CWPP workshop (Joe Cochran & Doug Reed)
December 21, 2017 Mt Laguna FSC (Joe Cochran & Doug Reed), CWPP development meeting with Bob Uribe, Lakeside
February 21, 2018 Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council CWPP Revision meeting, Joe Cochran & Doug Reed
Figure 1: Area Map

See Figure 3

Figure 2: Communities Map
Figure 3: Assets at Risk
Figure 4: USGS Topographic Map

Mount Laguna CWPP
Figure 5: Fire Threat (modeled by CDF FRAP)
Figure 7: Wild land-Urban Interface Zone Designations (CDF FRAP)

Mount Laguna CWPP
Figure 8: Vegetation Classification
Vegetation Communities (Holland 95 Classification)

- Southern Foredunes, Beach:
  - Salt Pan, Mudflats
    - (13000, 13400, 21230)

- Coastal Sage Scrub
  - (31200, 32400, 32500, 32700, 32710, 32720)

- Chaparral
  - (35000, 35200, 35210, 37000, 37120, 37121, 37122, 37130, 37131, 37132, 37200, 37210, 37220, 37300, 37500, 37520, 37530, 37540, 37830, 37900, 37A00, 37C30, 37K00, 37G00)

- Grassland
  - (42000, 42100, 42110, 42120, 42200, 42300, 42400, 42470)

- Riparian Scrub
  - (60000, 63000, 63300, 63310, 63320, 63410, 63810, 63820)

- Riparian Woodland
  - (62000, 62300, 62400)

- Riparian Forest
  - (61000, 61300, 61310, 61320, 62330, 61510, 61810, 61820)

- Pinyon Juniper Woodlands
  - (72300, 72310, 72320)

- Other Woodlands
  - (70000, 71000, 71100, 71160, 71161, 71162, 71180, 71181, 71192, 75100, 77000, 78000, 79000)

- Oak Forest
  - (81300, 81310, 81320, 81340)

- Meadow and Seep
  - (45000, 45100, 45110, 45120, 45300, 45320, 45400)

- Marsh
  - (52120, 52300, 52310, 52400, 52410, 52420, 52440)

- Coniferous Forest
  - (81100, 83140, 83230, 84000, 84100, 84140, 84150, 84230, 84500, 85100)

- Desert Dunes
  - (22100, 22300, 24000)

- Playas/Badlands/Mudhill Forbs
  - (46000, 46100)

- Desert Scrub
  - (33100, 33200, 33210, 33220, 33500, 33600, 34000, 34300, 36110, 36900)

- Desert Chaparral
  - (37400, 37800)

- Dry Wash Woodland
  - (25000, 33230, 33300, 36120, 62200)

- Water
  - (Including 11200, 13200)

- Urban, Disturbed Habitat, Agriculture, Eucalyptus Woodland

- Not Mapped (Data Gaps)

Use with Figure 8.