

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Rancho de Los Peñasquitos FSC

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: _____ Amendment Reviewed: _____

Requested Amendment revisions letter to CWPP originators: _____

Revisions received: _____

Date Amendment approved by Committee: _____

Local signatures obtained on Reviewed/Approved Document: _____

CAL FIRE final signature/authorization: _____

Approval letter to CWPP originators: _____

PDF Posted to Website: _____

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Community Wildfire Protection Plan **Rancho de Los Peñasquitos FSC**

Introduction

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by **Rancho Penasquitos Fire Safe Council** with guidance and support from the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Rancho de Los Peñasquitos FSC

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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 **Rancho Penasquitos FSC CWPP** are included in the following table. Their organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

Rancho Penasquitos Fire Safe Council Michael Shoecraft and Dennis Spurr, Co-Chairs	Coordinate activities of Council Members, write CWPP and Grants, and attend meetings.
City of San Diego Fire - Rescue Department Eddie Villavicencio, Assistant Fire Marshal	Advise and coordinate activities of City of San Diego FSCs.

B. Community Overview –

Rancho Penasquitos is a Community of 15,223 homes and 44,683 residents (1). Rancho Penasquitos is located in the north-eastern part of San Diego City and is about 20 miles from Downtown San Diego. Rancho Penasquitos is located in a wildfire-prone environment located north of Scripps Ranch, south of Rancho Bernardo, and east of Rancho Santa Fe. It is bordered by three dramatic open space environments; Black Mountain Open Space Park, Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, and Del Mar Mesa Preserve. These neighborhoods are all designated as Very High Risk Fire Zones by Cal Fire.

A detailed description of Rancho Penasquitos is presented in the Appendix D.

(1) SANDAG Current Estimates, as of 1 Jan 2016 (http://datasurfer.sandag.org/download/sandag_estimate_2016_cpa_rancho-penasquitos.pdf)

SECTION I: COLLABORATION -- continued

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 Rancho Penasquitos Community (Appendix C).

Values at risk within the community are:

45,000 - Residents

7 – Elementary Schools

1 – Middle School

1 – High School

Several Private Schools and Pre-schools

Numerous Churches

Numerous Water Tanks

Numerous Parks and Recreation Centers

1 – City Fire Station #40

1 – SDPD NE Division HQ

1 – Library

Senior Assisted Living Center

1- Horse Stable

15000 Homes

Many Businesses both large and small

Black Mountain Open Space Park, 1,554 ft. summit with 2,352 acres of native vegetation

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: We are a 4 person staffing on all fire apparatus.

1) City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is the agency that serves both response to fires and medical and associated emergencies to the Rancho Penasquitos Community.

There is one Fire and Rescue Station in Rancho Penasquitos (13393 Salmon River Rd, FS40) and 3 near Penasquitos:

14556 Lazanja Dr (FS46), four miles away;

12110 World Trade Dr (FS42), four miles away; and

10011 Black Mtn Rd (FS44), four miles away.

A new Fire and Rescue Station is currently planned for construction at Carmel Valley Rd. and Winecreek Rd. (FS48), four miles away. All stations have five star ratings.

2) Wildland fires would also be responded to by the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and the County, as necessary.

SECTION II: PRIORITIZED FUEL REDUCTION TREATMENTS

A. Priorities

As noted in the detailed Community Overview in Appendix D, the community is surrounded by environmental sensitive canyons, hillsides and open space, both around and inside the community. Any fuel reduction treatments need to follow city, county and state regulations to protect these natural flora and fauna resources. While fuel reduction is important, our primary focus has been on reduction of structural ignitibility.

1. Continue education and training of community residents in creating defensible space around structures and maintaining property with consideration for Fire Resistance.
2. Inform residents of restrictions for brush management during Gnatcatcher nesting season Mar 1-Aug 15 and avoid vernal pools.
3. Continue to utilize the resources of the periodic Fire Marshal inspections in a positive and receptive way. Residents are now seeing this inspection as a resource for the safety of our neighborhood and residents.
4. Continue to work with San Diego City Parks and Recreation Department in trimming brush located next to properties along Black Mountain Open Space Park and Los Penasquitos Canyon.
5. Promote frequent Community Cleanups sponsored by the City of San Diego. These include both at a central Penasquitos location and for mini-cleanups in Penasquitos neighborhoods.

TO THIS END, OUR GOALS ARE:

B. Existing Projects:

1. Staffing a Firesafe booth at the annual Fiesta de los Rancho Penasquitos in May.
2. Present Fire Safe training and information as part of a community-wide annual Disaster Preparedness program in September.

C. Projects in Planning:

A community-wide door-to-door handout of evacuation plan and Ready, Set, Go pamphlets (to be done by students as a community service project).

SECTION III: TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

In cooperation with the City of San Diego, the Rancho Penasquitos 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 California Building and Fire Code, City of San Diego Municipal Codes and Regulations. Following is a description of structural challenges, including proposed methods of improvement and implementation proposed for the community:

1. Continue education and training of community residents in creating a "Defensible Home" for improving fire resistance.
2. Continue to utilize the resources of the Fire Marshal and City Planning to communicate required and recommended structural changes to improve fire resistance.
3. Encourage residents to use online resources such as the "Homeowner Wildfire Assessment" hosted by UC Berkeley's Center for Fire Research and Outreach to complete a self-evaluation of their home's fire resistance and discover ways to improve that resistance.

SECTION IV:

SIGNATORS - page 1

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan as developed for *Rancho Penasquitos FSC*:

- 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.

Co-Chairs of Fire Safe Council submitting this CWPP

Michael R. Shoecraft

Dennis Spurr

Date

Eddie Villavicencio

Assistant Fire Marshal

City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

Date

Revised April 2019

SECTION IV: SIGNATORS - page 2

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been developed for the community of *Rancho Penasquitos, City of San Diego*

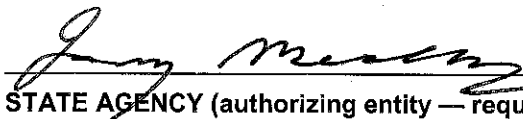
This CWPP was reviewed and recommended for approval by the San Diego Community Wildfire Protection Plan Review Committee as demonstrated by the signature below.



Chair of CWPP Review Committee
(name)

6/6/19
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:



STATE AGENCY (authorizing entity — required for finalization)

6-10-19
Date

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

SECTION V: Appendix A: References

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

LIST OF REFERENCES:

1. County of San Diego Consolidated Code, available at:
<http://www.amlegal.com/pdffiles/SanDiegoCo/ord10464.pdf>
2. County of San Diego Consolidated Fire Code (current version), available at:
<http://www.amlegal.com/pdffiles/SanDiegoCo/ord10466.pdf>
3. City of San Diego Municipal Code ,Building Regulations, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art05Division01.pdf>
4. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Landscape Regulations, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art02Division04.pdf>
5. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art03Division01.pdf>
6. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Tentative Map Regulations, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art04Division02.pdf>
7. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Established, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter05/Ch05Art05Division94.pdf>
8. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Additions and Modifications, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art09Division03.pdf>
9. City of San Diego Brush Management Guide, available at:
https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/brush_0.pdf
10. City of San Diego Clarification of Brush Management Regulations and Landscape Standards, available at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/fire/pdf/brushpolicy.pdf>
11. City of San Diego Application for Use of Goats for Brush Management Permit, available at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/fire/pdf/goatspermit.pdf>
12. City of San Diego Ready, Set Go (English Version), available at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/safety/tips/readyssetgo>
13. City of San Diego Ready, Set, Go (Spanish Version), available at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/rsg-spanish.pdf>
14. www.livingwithfire.com
15. www.firesafecouncil.org
16. www.firesafesdcounty.org
17. Homeowner Wildfire Assessment
https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Homeowner_Wildfire_Assessment/

Revised April 2019

SECTION V: Appendix B: CWPP Meeting Tracking Documents

Rancho Penasquitos FSC meetings are generally held the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7PM, at the LDS Church on Black Mountain Rd, San Diego, CA 92129

Meetings held for Development of CWPP:

18 Jan 2018, meeting held 7:30 PM at Bad Ass Coffee, 9878 Carmel Mountain Rd, San Diego, CA 92129

15 Feb 2018, meeting held 7:30 at the Hotel Karlan (formerly Doubletree Hotel), 14455 Penasquitos Dr, San Diego, CA 92129

15 Mar 2018, 7PM, LDS Church on Black Mountain Rd

19 Apr 2018, 7PM, LDS Church on Black Mountain Rd

17 May 2018, 7PM, LDS Church on Black Mountain Rd

21 Jun 2018, 7PM, LDS Church on Black Mountain Rd

18 Oct 2018, 7PM, LDS Church on Black Mountain Rd

15 Nov 2018, 7PM, LDS Church on Black Mountain Rd

21 Feb 2019, 7PM, LDS Church on Black Mountain Rd

Personnel in attendance at most meetings:

Mike Shoecraft
Dennis Spurr
Christina Waddell
Stephen Egbert
Tim Jones
Dale Politte
Gail Sexton
Eddie VillaVicencio
Gary Horn

SECTION V: Appendix C: Maps

Figure 1: *Area Map*

Figure 2: *Communities Map*

Figure 3: *Assets at Risk*

Figure 4: *USGS Topographic Map*

Figure 5: *Fire Threat (modeled by CDF FRAP)*

Figure 5b: *Fire Threat (San Diego City)*

Figure 6: *Fire History 1950 – 2017*

Figure 7: *Wild land-Urban Interface Zone Designations (CDF FRAP)*

Figure 8: *Vegetation Classification*

SECTION V: Appendix D: Detailed Description of Rancho Penasquitos

Description of topography, population, climate, land uses, businesses, schools, infrastructure, fire safe councils, and other applicable traits specific to this CWPP area.

1. Rancho Penasquitos is an urban residential community of roughly 10000 acres, 15000 homes, 45,000 people, developed beginning in the late 1960's and is located within the San Diego City limits. It is bordered by Highway 15 (East), Black Mountain Open Space Park (North), Torrey Highlands community and Del Mar Mesa Preserve (West) and Los Penasquitos Preserve (South). In addition to the three open space parks bordering Rancho Penasquitos, the community includes numerous open space islands, i.e., finger canyons, and hillsides. There are no currently identified federally managed lands within the community.

2. The majority of the community is predominantly single-family residences, many of which lie on the border between native vegetation and the developed community, with several apartment and condominium communities hosting the young, transient, military and elderly segments of our community. The community is bisected by state route 56 and bordered on the east by I-15.

Access within the community is via five 4-lane roads, running North-South (Black Mountain Rd., Rancho Penasquitos Blvd., and Camino Del Sur) or East-West (Carmel Mountain Rd. and Park Village Rd.). Park Village Rd. decreases to 2 lanes West of Camino Del Sur. Camino Del Sur is not completed to the North at this time, leaving only Park Village Rd. for evacuation from this area. Penasquitos Drive, the major 2-lane road for evacuation in the North-East area of the community exits onto Carmel Mountain Rd. near I-15. The only other evacuation route from this area is the one lane connection between Andorra Way and Corte Raposo in Rancho Bernardo. This route is blocked by bollards, except in an emergency.

All evacuation routes will need to terminate at I-15, state route 56, Carmel Valley Rd, or Mira Mesa Blvd. Mt. Carmel High School and Westview High School have been used as evacuation centers in the past. Large shopping centers (Vons on Black Mountain Rd, Stater Brothers on Carmel Mountain Rd) and large community parks and ball fields can be used as temporary evacuation locations. Evacuation preparedness and routes are established by individuals or collectively by the community. During an emergency, evacuation duties fall under the authority of the police department, not the fire department. Residents are advised to have an evacuation kit that can be carried as it may be necessary to evacuate on foot.

3. Rancho Penasquitos is comprised of fuel that, much like the rest of San Diego County, is ranked in the high to very high range with regard to combustibility. The vegetation throughout the Rancho Penasquitos area is a combination of coastal sage scrub (California sagebrush, California buckwheat, and laurel sumac) and chaparral (chamise, scrub oak, and manzanita). These fuels are generally very dry during the non-rainy season (May-Oct), and pose a significant wildfire threat to the community.

4. Black Mountain rises to 1554 ft. while Los Penasquitos Canyon stretches approximately 7 miles at an average elevation of 150 ft. In between is Rancho Penasquitos and numerous open space islands, i.e. finger canyons, and smaller hillsides. Many houses border Black Mountain Open Space Park, Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve and the numerous open space islands and hillsides. City of San Diego Municipal Codes and Regulations pertaining to open space areas prohibit irrigating the canyons native and naturalized vegetation. Dry fuel and erosion (steepness of the canyons and hillsides) are definite dangers. Another consideration is that fires can more easily burn up hill to the houses. Many of the houses have only 4 feet between the house and adjoining property line. This adds to the importance of prevention and planning on the part of the residents.

The slopes of the canyons and hillsides vary, but a 25-40 degree slope is estimated. Seasonal Santa Ana Winds sometimes reach 40 miles per hour or greater. While this is great for drying laundry outside, it is a disaster for fire danger! Most times there is a gentle, 5-10 mile per hour wind off the ocean. While not as strong and dry as Santa Ana Winds, these winds can also be dangerous to a fire.

5. Our community has been very close to major wildfires in both 2003 (Cedar fire) and 2007 (Witch Creek fire), with substantial portions of our community evacuated in both major wildfires. In May 2014, the Bernardo fire started in 4-S Ranch (San Diego County, north of Black Mountain) and, fueled by Santa Ana winds, went along the northern border of Rancho Penasquitos thru Black Mountain Ranch, burning 1600 acres. Rancho Penasquitos residents were evacuated. There have been 4 small brush fires on the East and South-East side of Black Mountain, one in July 1986, another in Aug. 1995, the 2005 Labor Day brush fire burned 200 acres, and the 2007 fire by the water tower in North-East Penasquitos. Three brush fires hit Los Penasquitos Canyon in recent history, one in Sep. 1983 burned 2000 acres between Mira Mesa Blvd. and Paseo Montalban, one burned 500 acres of the canyon in Sep. 1992, and the 19 June 2007 Canyon Fire near Black Mountain Rd and Mercy Rd. Yet, we have not had a significant fire within the community in over 30 years, and almost 80 years on parts of Black Mountain, hence fuel loading in many vegetated areas is an important concern for the risk and damaging effect of wildfire.

6. Typical summer weather conditions classify our area as a "very high fire danger" zone. Fall and Winter Santa Ana events, and more recently, Spring (Bernardo fire) and Summer Santa Ana's, with the potential for extreme fire behavior, place it in the "extreme fire danger" category during these periods. It is not uncommon for the National Weather Service (NWS) to declare several "Red Flag" episodes each year when high temperatures, low humidity and high winds combine to create a critical fire hazard. Red Flag conditions are not limited to Santa Ana conditions and may occur when wind velocity, humidity and temperature exist in a relationship that will support extreme fire behavior. San Diego usually has low rainfall, causing lots of dry grass and bush. Some seasons like the 2016-17 season, have larger amounts of rain that brings lots of growth and generates greater amounts of fuel.

Revised April 2019

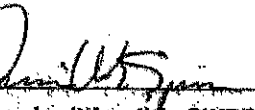
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Co-Chairs of Fire Safe Council submitting this CWPP
Michael R. Shepcraft


Dennis Spurr

4/23/2019
Date


Eddie Villavicencio
Assistant Fire Marshal
City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

4-23-19
Date

