

**El Capitan
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

San Diego County, California**

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REFERENCES and ATTACHMENTS available upon request

INTRODUCTION

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-148) was adopted during the President George W. Bush administration after widespread fires during the summer of 2002. It encourages federal, state and local agencies to work collaboratively with communities. Communities may, at their option, develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The law outlines the content of these plans. Funds are available to communities with an approved CWPP through: State foresters, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's *State Fire Assistance*, and Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management's *Community Assistance* wildland-urban interface program.

The California Fire Safe Council was formed in 1993, before the passage of the Healthy Forest Act. Its mission is to mobilize Californians to protect their homes, communities and environments from wildfire. Fifty public and private organizations are members of the California Fire Safe Council.

The California Fire Safe Council approved the formation of the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County in 1997. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County promotes Fire Safety education and encourages pre-fire management. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, in partnership with the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, administers the CWPP program for CALFIRE.

This El Capitan Fire Safe Council (ECFSC) CWPP was developed by the communities of El Monte Valley, Moreno Valley, Muth Valley, and Wildcat Canyon. The Council held collaboration meetings with CALFIRE, Lakeside Fire District, Viejas Fire Department, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Please see Figure 1.

One of many non-governmental organizations involved in fire safety is the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Most communities reach out to one or more NGO for input during CWPP development.

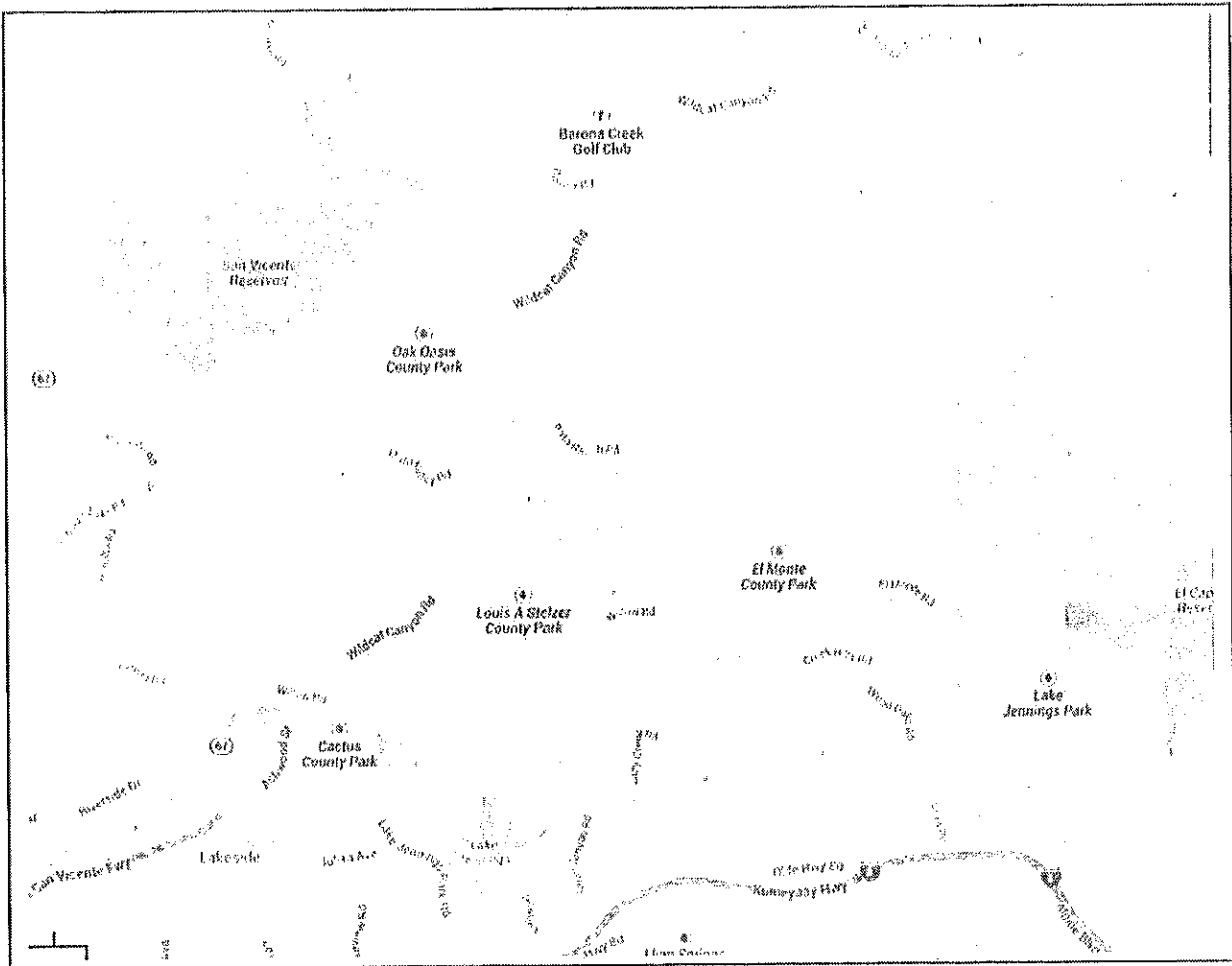


Figure 1. Approximate area of influence of the El Capitan CWPP.

SECTION I: COLLABORATION

A. COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the El Capitan Fire Safe Community (ECFSC) Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) are listed in the table below. Their organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated. Meeting agendas and meeting notes from ECFSC meetings are included in Attachment 2. Attendance is indicated in the notes. Attachment 3 contains the ECFSC Board members and their contact information.

Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
El Capitan Fire Safe Council	Develop and implement a Community Wildfire Prevention Plan, maintain emergency contact phone tree, establish fire-prevention priorities.
Eucalyptus Hills Fire Safe Council Board	Provide mentoring and grant-writing expertise.
Helix Water District	Represent Water District perspective regarding water availability and vegetation management related to fire safe issues.
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County	Provide information and expertise on Conservation District issues.
Lakeside Fire Protection District	Provide coordination on public information regarding defensible space.
San Diego County	Provide information on sensitive habitats, erosion and runoff issues, and coordination with elected officials and with other community efforts. Attended several meetings, including, for example, March 28, 2013 Revitalization Committee meeting, provided CWPP.
CALFIRE	Collaboration meeting on October 5, 2012 and May 3, 2013. Provided edits.
Lakeside River Park Conservancy	Provided vegetation training on January 12, 2013
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Provide information on wildlife issues related to fire safety.

Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
Bureau of Land Management	Held collaboration meeting on March 8, 2013. BLM requested information on non-native species fire threats, and details of equestrian evacuation procedures be deleted. Asked that BLM ownership of County Habitat Preserves be noted.
Barona Band of Mission Indians	Attended May 3, 2013 collaboration meeting. Provides information and coordination on tribal Fire Safe management practices.
Forest Area Safety Taskforce (FAST)	Address life and property safety related to dead and diseased trees and brush in San Diego County.
US Forest Service	Attended May 3, 2013 collaboration meeting. Provides fire safety service on federal land and near federal land.

B. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Setting This area has numerous rural homes scattered amongst chaparral covered hillsides and dry river bottom areas.

Public and Private Uses.

1. **Recreation.** This area hosts many recreational opportunities, from hiking and rock-climbing, to paragliding, biking, horseback riding, boating, fishing, and many other activities. There are several parks, preserves, and private landholdings that are open to the public.
2. **Utilities.** Three large reservoirs are located in the area as well as several major power transmission lines.
3. **Commercial Uses.** Businesses include egg farms, dairy, horse and cattle ranches, stables, oat farms and other crops, orchards, kennels, and sand and gravel mining.
4. **Residential Uses.** The El Capitan area includes almost 600 households spread thinly over an area of almost 15,000 acres.

The area does have numerous evacuation challenges in case of fire including:

- Wildcat Canyon Road.
- Muth Valley Road.
- El Monte Road and
- Willow Road.

Surrounding Areas. The larger community of Lakeside to the West, Barona Tribal Land to the North, Cleveland National Forest to the East and the I-8 Corridor to the South surround the El Capitan Fire Safe Council Area.

Fire History. The largest fire in (modern) California history, the deadly Cedar Fire, burned most of El Monte Valley, Moreno Valley, Muth Valley, and Wildcat Canyon area in 2003 and there are numerous other fire burn scars in this region of varying ages.

C. IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY VALUES AT RISK

The El Capitan area has few buildings where people gather such as schools libraries, churches, or hospitals. The primary values at risk are lives and property of residents, public lands such as parks and recreational areas, and visitors, especially those enjoying recreational values in remote locations.

D. LOCAL PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITY

The Lakeside Fire Protection District and The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) both provide primary fire response and EMS protection to the majority of the ECFSC area. Some of the eastern portions of the ECFSC community are served by the US Forest Service and the San Diego Rural Fire Protection District. Major wild-land fires typically require a joint or "Unified Command" which include all of these agencies working together.

Lakeside Fire Protection District has the closest fire station located in nearby Lakeside. Although there are virtually no fire hydrants in the area, the Fire Departments can obtain water from above ground water storage tanks or from numerous fire service water tenders that respond to this area routinely.

The San Diego County Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates the alerting and notifying appropriate agencies, as well as the public as directed by emergency officials.

FIREFIGHTING AGENCIES

Fire Department	Emergency Service Type	Type of Equipment
Lakeside Fire Protection District	Urban/rural fire protection, wildland fire protection and medical emergencies	Fire engines, water tender and medic ambulances
San Diego County Rural Fire Protection District	Rural fire protection and medical emergencies	Fire engines, water tenders, truck companies, heavy rescue
San Diego County Fire Authority	Rural fire protection and medical emergencies	Fire engines and water tenders
Barona Fire Department	Rural fire protection, wildland fire protection and medical emergencies	Fire engines, water tender and medic ambulance
CALFIRE	Wildland fire, rural fire protection, and EMS	Fire engines, Fire Crews, bulldozers and aircraft
Cleveland National Forest	Wildland fire protection	Fire engines, Fire Crews, and aircraft

SECTION II: PRIORITIZED ACTIVITIES

A. PRIORITIES

The primary purpose of the Fire Safe Council is to promote and assist residents in obtaining their defensible space requirement. A long term goal of the ECFSC is to have 100% of all habitable structures achieve a relative "stand alone" Defensible Space protection. Stand-Alone is defined as a structure that will survive a fast moving wildland fire whether or not the Fire Department is there to protect it.

The ECFSC will achieve 100% defensible space compliance primarily with fuels reduction programs:

- Promote and encourage 100% compliance with requirements to maintain 100-foot defensible space around structures as required by local and state codes and ordinances.
- Identify funding sources for vegetation management (reduction) on public and private property, including chippers for biomass reduction and herbicides for pest plant eradication.

B. EXISTING EFFORTS

- The ECFSC provides a phone alert system, and educational events, including a June training session and an October potluck. Lakeside Fire Protection District and volunteers distributed information on defensible space to residents of Lakeside in late July, 2009. Handouts included a Compact Disc titled "A Homeowners Guide to Watershed Management at the Chaparral / Urban Interface," and a "Homeowners Guide to Fuel Modification around Your Home."

SECTION III: TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITIBILITY

The ECFSC supports and promotes efforts to reduce the ignitibility of structures but is not our main focus. The ECFSC will, where appropriate, direct education materials on this subject to residents within the ECFSC area. Specific questions regarding the reduction of structural ignitibility will be directed to the San Diego County Department of Development Services.

SECTION IV: SIGNATORS

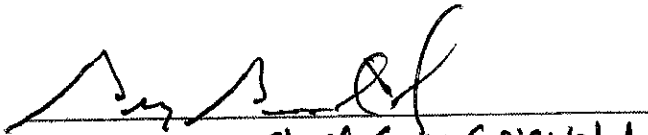
The following entities attest that the standards listed above are proposed to be met and they accept the content of this CWPP:



Chief Andy Parr
Lakeside Fire Protection District

1-21-14

Date



~~Chief Thom Porter~~ Chief Greg Griswold
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
(CALFIRE)

6-3-14

Date

