

Kensington Fire Safe Council | 2021

Community Wildfire Protection Plan



*This photo courtesy of Red Rhino Realty
Photo on next page courtesy of resident, Louise Guarnotta*



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PREFACE: WHAT IS A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN?

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

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

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

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

SECTION I: SNAPSHOT OF THE COMMUNITY

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

1. OVERVIEW



Photos courtesy of Red Rhino Realty

Kensington is a delightful, highly walkable, village-like community of over 7,000 residents, an unknown number of visitors each day and numerous businesses. We're located in the eastern part of the City of San Diego, and well-loved by both residents and our many frequent guests.

What Makes Us Unique: Our thriving, five-block Adams Avenue downtown features restaurants, two markets, a gym, a library, a medical group and dentist, bars, a couple of churches, two city parks and other amenities. Volunteers tend small gardens on our main street and at our local elementary school, others decorate and conduct parades on various holidays, and many support numerous other community activities. When one of our 1,850+ houses is put up for sale, its often sold in less than a week. Many are historically-certified under the Mills Act.

Unusual for the time, our neighborhood was actually founded by women. Originally part of the Catholic Church's "Rancho Mission" holdings, parcels that are now Kensington were inherited and later sold for housing development by two sisters. Soon our adorable Craftsman, Mission, Pueblo and Spanish Revival style homes began to appear. Our oldest homes date back to 1910. We became part of San Diego in 1952. (Source: <http://heartofkensington.org/2010hometour.html>)



Photo courtesy of Kensington Resident, Judy Harrington

Here Are the People in Our Neighborhood... 7,259 people reside in Kensington housing units spread out on a little over a mile. Because of the high cost of Kensington houses, it's often difficult for young families to buy in our area and as a result, many homeowners are retirees. Average number of residents per household is two. 67% of our residents are renters. 84 percent of households have no children. Source:

<http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Kensington-San-Diego-CA.html>

Key Landmarks, Gathering Places and Infrastructure: You can't miss our key landmark – the wonderful Kensington sign on our “Main Street” – Adams Avenue, maintained over the years by donations from area residents.

Primary gathering places include:

1. **Kensington Community Church**, 4774 Marlborough Drive, houses a preschool and meetings of numerous local clubs (in non-pandemic times of course).



Kensington Community Church

Kensington Normal Heights Library

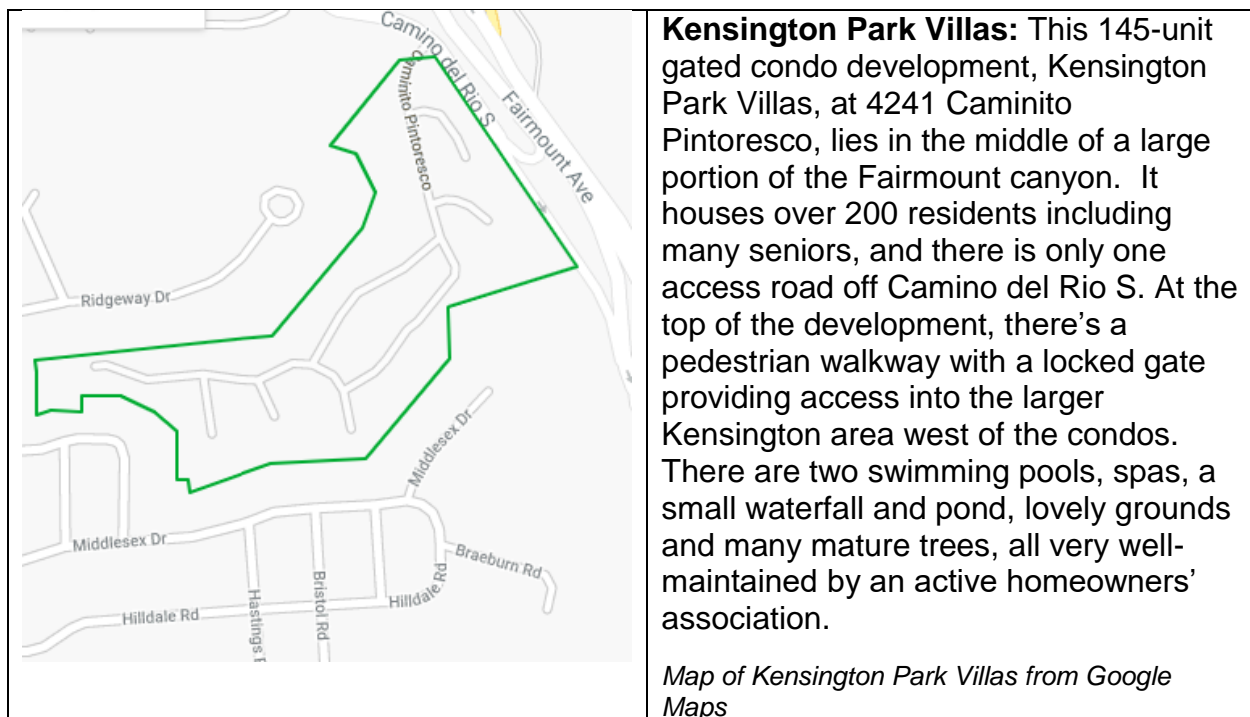
Photos courtesy of B. Miller

2. **Kensington Normal Heights Library**, 4121 Adams Avenue and the surrounding park where street fairs and various events are held.
3. **Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park**, 39th and Adams is used for events as well as recreation.
4. **Franklin STEAM Magnet Elementary School**, Copeland and Meade, for K-5 students, contains a large field for outdoor recreation and school-related events.

Vulnerable Populations:

Seniors: Kensington's many retirees in single family houses, condos and apartments can enjoy the quality of life and independence offered by our community's walkability, shopping, churches and nearby dental and medical offices. In 2017, 60 residential units were added to a three-story mixed use building on the corner of Adams and Marlborough which was billed as “affordable senior housing”. ([San Diego Housing Inventory Annual Report](#))

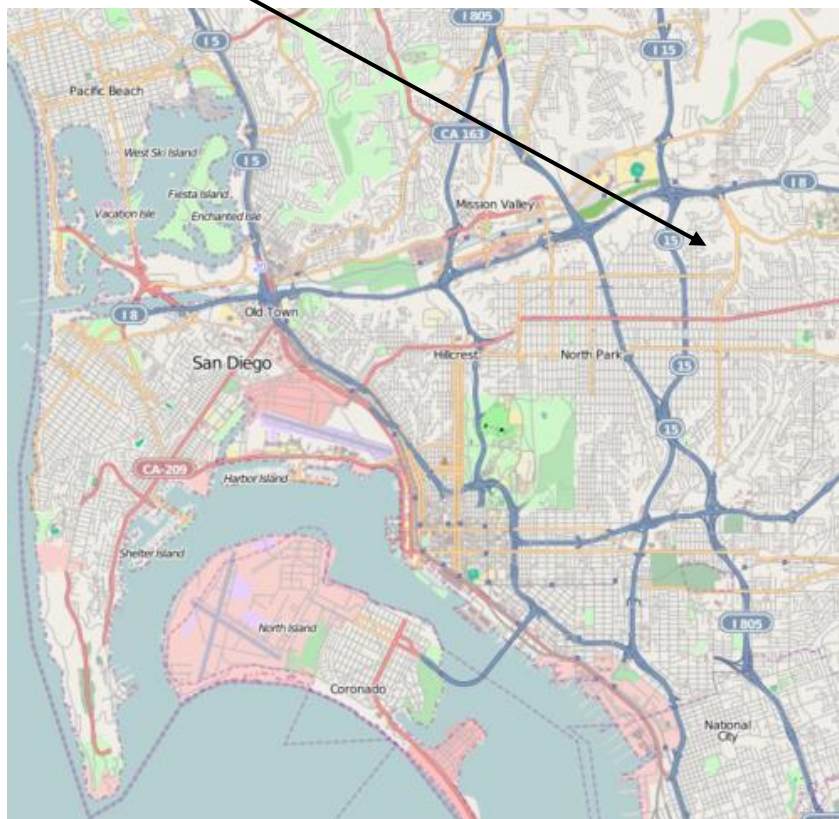
Limited-access Residents: Many residents live in areas with only one road in and one road out, as described in Section VII - Evacuation Planning.



Defensible Space: In 2019, Kensington FSC collaborated with residents and inspectors from the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's, Community Risk Reduction Division, Wildland Management and Enforcement Section, to ensure that all properties that abut the Wildland Urban Interface, are in compliance with the City's Landscape Regulations (SDMC 142.0412), where brush management is required on public or privately owned lots that are within a 100' of a structure and contain native and naturalized vegetation.

Kensington weather is usually between the temperatures reported from Lindbergh Field and El Cajon: i.e. dry and seldom below freezing, warmest in late summer and early autumn; rainfall generally only from December to March generating more brush growth. Some early morning marine layer often reaches Kensington. East to West Santa Ana winds blow from the deserts and have a natural pathway formed by Interstate 8, located at the bottom of a canyon which also runs east to west.

Kensington



Map courtesy of https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kensington,_San_Diego

B. LANDSCAPE

TOPOGRAPHY

Kensington, located in the southeastern corner within the City of San Diego, and the southwestern corner of the County of San Diego. It sits on the top of hills bisected by multiple canyons. We are bordered on the west by Highway 15, Highway 8 to the north, Fairmount Ave to the east, Monroe Avenue on the south. Our three border highways are all located at the bottom of large canyons.

Wildland Urban Interface: Houses and wildland vegetation meet at public lands found (1) in two major east west canyons and (2) in the frontage found along Interstates 15 and 8, and Fairmount Ave. Our canyons contain numerous smaller finger canyons that run in all directions, and all our canyons are considered steep with grades of 30-40 degrees, creating both fuel and erosion challenges (Source: <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/kensington-talmadge>)

The two major canyons experience the seasonal Santa Ana winds which sometimes reach 50 miles per hour or greater – good for drying laundry outside, but a potential fire disaster!

Per the City of San Diego Municipal Landscape Development Codes and Regulations, irrigating of native and naturalized vegetation in Brush Management Zone-2, and outward into the canyons is prohibited. Another consideration is that fires burn uphill toward the houses. We advise neighbors that the fires would most likely be fought from the top of the hills, often behind the houses.

Many of the canyon houses and Kensington houses in general are tightly packed, some with as little as five feet between the house and adjoining property line. This adds to the importance of prevention and planning on the part of the residents.

In addition to our canyons, the closest larger wilderness area is Mission Trails Park, less than 10 miles away to the north with over 8,000 acres of undeveloped, rugged hills and valleys.

FIRE HISTORY

1. **January 9, 2021:** A **beat-up pickup truck**, abandoned for one or two weeks, exploded on 39th near Monroe St. Thankfully, police say no one was hurt. – as reported by several residents and filmed by one, on our local Nextdoor site.
2. **October, 2019** – Approximately 30 Mexican palm trees burned, with all their foliage in flames, further contributing to the fire. All burned palms have since recovered and have new foliage. SDFD prevented the fire from spreading uphill into Kensington but embers did spread the fire across Fairmount Avenue downwind to Talmadge on the east side of Fairmount.
 - Three helicopters fought the fire from the air with each completing multiple water dumps over approximately 3 hours
 - Multiple fire engine companies fought the fire from the ground over approximately 6 hours. Fairmount Avenue was closed during the fire and “mop up” operations stretched after dark to douse any remaining hot spots, so the wildfire would not reignite.
 - Neighbors were told that the fire was likely due to a campfire that got away from homeless campers.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/public-safety/story/2019-10-15/firefighters-battling-brush-fire-in-talmadge>



Before 2019 fire

The fire on Fairmount

After the fire

Photos courtesy of KFS Board member, Ken Burkhart

3. **2016 – Small brush fire** in the canyon at Alder and Fairmount
<https://www.facebook.com/kensingtontalmadge/posts/there-was-a-brush-fire-today-in-the-canyon-at-alder-and-fairmount-looks-like-its/484251355092445/>
4. **2014 – A small brush fire** off the I-15, near Adams Avenue
5. **1985 – Normal Heights Fire burned 300 acres, destroyed 76 houses and damaged 57 others.** Damage was set at \$9 million. 1,000 to 1,500 people were evacuated. It was, at the time, the worst brush fire in San Diego history. It came from the north into the Normal Heights neighborhood, which borders the community of Kensington on the west. While Normal Heights does not have east to west bisecting canyons, it has canyons, housing and freeways (Interstates 15, 805, 8) on three sides. The cause of this fire is not known, but it came from the north and was fueled by Santa Ana winds. <https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/about/majorfires/1985normalheights>
6. **1956 – Four-alarm fire;** 25 homes damaged and 19 firefighters treated for injuries. <https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/about/majorfires/1956kensington>

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Water Systems and Waterways:** Other than a small stream that runs through Kensington Park Villas, there are no waterways in our area. The San Diego river north of Highway 8 is two to three miles north of the general Kensington area. Lake Murray is about seven miles east and slightly north of Kensington.

- **Residential Structures:** There are at least 1,850 homes in our community and several apartment buildings.
- **Habitat Features:** Our homes tend to be fairly close together, and many at the top of our canyons
- **Landmarks, parks:** There is one small park in the immediate community surrounding the library at Adams and Marlborough. The larger Ward Park is right outside our community at Adams and Highway 15. Franklin school which lies just outside our southern boundary has a large playing field.
- **Businesses:** The six blocks on Adams Avenue between Highway 15 and Van Dyke Street includes a number of restaurants, real estate agents, bars, a Starbucks, salons, small stores and other businesses.
- **Historical sites** - We have a number of Mills Act-certified historical homes. One example is the “House of the Princes” built in 1929 by the Jehovah Witnesses’ Watch Tower Society. The Heart of Kensington lists over 18 of these homes on its interactive map but we are aware of additional certifications since this may was last updated.

MAPS

Using technology and local expertise, the sponsors of this CWPP have included a series of maps depicting the site and situation of Kensington Community (Appendix C). The following maps are visual aids from which Kensington Fire Safety Council and community members can assess and make recommendations.

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

C. FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

Agencies with firefighting responsibilities or involved in community efforts to protect the community, include:

The City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department responds both to fires as well as medical and associated emergencies for the Kensington Community. The City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is currently the only fire agency in San Diego County that conducts night air firefighting operations.

There are two Fire and Rescue Stations near Kensington and both stations have five star ratings.

1. **Fire Station 18**, 4676 Felton St., serves 2.98 square miles, which includes Kensington/Normal Heights and its surrounding areas. It’s approximately one mile from the heart of Kensington. FS18 is an engine company with extra brush or wildfire brush
<https://www.sandiego.gov/search/site/file%20station%2018>

2. **Fire Station 45** is approximately three miles away at 9366 Friars Road.. Fire Station 45 serves West Mission Valley and its surrounding areas. Engine 45's district is 4.28 square miles. They are an engine company and a truck company engine. <https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/about/firestations/sta45>

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

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

A. KEY PARTNERS

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

	Organization	Roles/Responsibilities
1	San Diego Fire Rescue Dept (SDFD)	Fire Operations Division-local fire stations community support
2	SDFD's Wildland Management & Enforcement Section	Code enforcement
3	SDFD Community Resource Officer	Liaison with local communities
4	Fire Safe Council of San Diego County	Primary CWPP developer, education, support for pre-wildfire disaster planning, defensible space, fuel reduction and hazard assessment; support for local fire safe councils.
5	Ken-Tal Community Assoc.	General betterment of the community
6	Talmadge Sisters	General betterment of Talmadge Circle
8	Kensington Fire Safe Council/Board of Directors and several volunteers	Make Kensington as fire safe as possible
9	Kensington Talmadge Business Association https://kentalbiz.org/	Fosters collaboration among business owners, local organizations and the community to better Kensington
10	Kensington Park Villas volunteer	Private condo development in Kensington
11	Sean Elo Office	City Councilman
12	American Red Cross – Southern Division	Evacuation planning when necessary
10	Kensington Park Villas volunteer	Private condo development in Kensington

SECTION III: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

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

A. PRIORITIES

Kensington Fire Safe Council works to increase fire safety in our community through education and action. Our community engagement priorities for 2021 are:

1. Meet all requirements to renew our certification as a member in good standing with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, so we may take advantage of their support and resources.
2. Meet all requirements to establish Kensington Fire Safe Council as an IRS-recognized non-profit, enhancing our ability to raise funds to educate our community and coordinate fire safety community projects.
3. Recruit additional Board members and volunteers for our efforts.
4. Provide fire safety educational information and tools to our community and encourage their active participation in fire safety.
5. Provide updates throughout the year on FSC activities and fire safety educational notices via our mailing list, Nextdoor, Facebook and kensingtonfiresafe.org

Challenges: COVID safety presents a significant challenge at least for part of 2021, since it eliminates in person gatherings for the foreseeable future. However, we will use zoom, small, socially-distanced outdoor gatherings and other avenues to stay in touch with our community. We have started our own KFS Nextdoor group and as of this writing, 33 residents have joined and we expect many more to come.

Survey: In addition, in late 2020, we initiated an on-line survey of residents' opinions on fire safety and solicited their ideas on what should be our priorities. Among the twenty-two who responded so far, the dumpster project was clearly considered the most important and a few said we should provide more dumpsters and twice a year.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Organizational Efforts

- In 2020 we began the process of incorporating our organization; we developed and submitted Articles of Incorporation, secured an Employer Identification Number, filed with IRS for non-profit status (which as of March 8, 2021, we are still waiting for our IRS determination letter).

- Developed financial ledger and document-sharing on Google docs.
- Developed a new boundary map, and attained approval by Marcie Garcia Senior Code Compliance Supervisor, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
- Formed our Board of Directors
- Developed bylaws and a conflict of interest policy
- Started FSC membership group on Nextdoor webpage application

2. Communication Efforts

With Other Organizations:

- Met with Fire Safe Council of San Diego County to determine steps to maintain our membership status
- Attended FSC SDC workshops on CWPP and monthly FSC zoom chats.
- Established communication with SDG&E and Canyonlands,

With Our Community:

- Developed [Kensington Fire Safe](#) website with organization description, list of board members, section on projects, news, history of area fires, resources, etc.
- Established a [Facebook page](#)
- Set up Mail Chimp mailing capability
- Designed and implemented two community surveys: one for former FSC leaders and a second one for the general community.
- Posted educational items on Nextdoor and FB re: KnoxBox; GoBags and Red Cross Fire Safety online seminars
- Responded to several Nextdoor postings re: flammable vegetation, goats and hardening, and posted several updates on all our organization activities
- Recruited several block or area captains to help distribute flyers and other efforts, which will be an ongoing effort.
- Secured donations for and delivered a gift basket and two large boxes of fresh produce for our local firefighters

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

1. Ongoing educational efforts - eg, home hardening, home evacuation planning, go-bags, etc.
2. Possibly fire safety knowledge quizzes at our community association meetings, with prizes donated by area merchants, similar to the Red Cross one at: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/home-fire-quiz.htm>
3. Events around Fire Safety month in October
4. Continuous community updates

SECTION IV: STRUCTURAL HARDENING

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

A. PRIORITIES

Our priority is educating residents on the importance of structural hardening steps such as double pane windows, non-combustible siding, replacing shake shingles with fire resistant materials, etc. to protect against sparks and other fire sources.

Challenges: Our homes are old and not necessarily built according to today's hardening standards, plus they are often very close together which requires cooperating neighbors. In addition, the costs of desirable hardening projects may make it a less desirable undertaking for some residents.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

We have provided Ready Set Go flyers in the past and will continue to do so.

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

We would like to host a professional to speak on structural hardening at one of our community association meetings – once we are able to meet again in person.

SECTION V: DEFENSIBLE SPACE

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

A. PRIORITIES

Educate residents on creating the required 100 feet of defensible space around their homes and buildings which is further supported by our Fall “Dumpathon” our annual dumpster project, as described in Section VII.

Challenges: Winter rains bring spring vegetation, then summer drought converts it to fuel.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

Past and continuing efforts include distributing flyers and discussion defensible space at community meetings and our Dumpathon.

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Continuing our annual Dumpathon, perhaps with more dumpsters.
- Develop ways to encourage homeowners to create a five-foot, ignition-resistant or ember-resistant zone
- We are hoping in the future to develop a “Fire Safe Yard Award” with a cooler name, perhaps local real estate agents and landscapers as judges.

SECTION VI: FUELS TREATMENT

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

A. PRIORITIES

We have no fuels treatment priorities (other than the Dumpster project described in Section VIII)

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

None other than our Dumpster project described in Section VII

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

None planned other than our Dumpster project described in Section VII



Former KFS Council President, Beverly Barrett, proudly points to one of our annual dumpsters. Photo courtesy of Beverly Barrett

SECTION VII: EVACUATION PLANNING

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

Evacuation planning is a dynamic process subject to the nuances of each community. Below is an overview of Kensington's key ingress and egress, as well as designated evacuation corridors, Temporary Safe Refuge Areas, completed projects, priorities and future projects.

A. OVERVIEW OF INGRESS AND EGRESS

East and West Kensington access is limited to four two-lane roads that run north and south from Adams Ave in addition to one narrower, two-block alley. They are:

1. Kensington Drive
2. Marlborough Drive
3. Edgeware Drive
4. Biona Drive
5. 42nd Street Alley

These access roads decline after several blocks as you go north, and most of the outer blocks eventually have only one road in and out. The eastern "Alder Circle" also has only one street - Alder Drive, linking to the above access streets. In the event of fire blocking areas with a single road out, residents would have to walk out.

Talmadge Circle also only has one short road out – Adams Ave, which links to Van Dyke. Going north on Van Dyke would lead to the Fairmount-Aldine canyon, a likely source of a fire; south within a block or two there would be another canyon just behind the houses to the east.

South Kensington residents can also retreat south toward El Cajon Blvd.

On ramps to the Highway15 would no doubt be backed up in the event of a major fire in the canyons on either side of this freeway and are a cause of concern.

It is the responsibility each individual community member to know a minimum of two best route out of their community to safety. During an emergency, evacuation routes are planned by our local law enforcement agency the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) not the Fire-Rescue Department. Residents are advised to have an evacuation kit that can be carried as it may be necessary to evacuate on foot.

To further assist in creation of your own policy/procedure, refer to the Fire-Rescue Department's "Ready, Set Go!" brochure. This brochure is used to assist residents in creating their own wildfire action plan and includes a safety checklist. <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/rsq-english.pdf>

B. DESIGNATED EVACUATION CORRIDORS AND TEMPORARY SAFE REFUGE AREA(S) (TSRA)

PACE OPTIONS: Evacuation routes will be determined by the SDPD. Evacuation routes from the Kensington area are subject to change due to many conditions.

Conditions such as:

- the location of the fire
- the size/intensity of the fire
- weather conditions
- traffic patterns

Some of the identified routes out of Kensington may include, but are only determined during the emergency event:

Primary: Marlborough Ave

Alternative: Edgeware Ave

Contingency: Biona Ave

Emergency Temporary Safe Refuge Areas: The Red Cross will determine safe refuge areas. Franklin STEAM Magnet Elementary School at Copeland and Madison might be a likely location. However, according to Melissa Altman, Regional Preparedness Manager with the American Red Cross Southern California Region:

The Red Cross maintains a database of potential locations throughout the city and has agreements in place with facilities that can be utilized in a disaster, for various uses such as sheltering, staging of supplies, distribution of emergency supplies, pet sheltering, feeding sites, etc. There is no pre-set map of evacuation or overnight sheltering sites. Residents will be notified via public service (radio, tv, reverse 9-1-1, San Diego County Emergency app, law enforcement outreach, etc.) about evacuations and the designated safe place to go. Safe evacuation sites are determined during the initial assessment of the emergency/incident by the authorities in partnership with the Red Cross.

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A **Temporary Evacuation Point** (TEP) is defined by FEMA as a safe staging area for those who will be (or have been) displaced by an emergency incident or disaster. Temporary Evacuation Points are typically used on a short-term basis before residents are permitted to return home or referred to another location, such as a disaster shelter. For example, in response to the Creek Fire in northern San Diego County in December 2020, the American Red Cross set up a TEP at Fallbrook High School.

A **Temporary Safe Refuge Area** (TSRA), meanwhile, represents a preplanned emergency location at which to take refuge if safe evacuation is no longer possible. A TSRA is a short-term emergency option representing the E in the PACE system. "P" represents a primary evacuation option, "A" an alternate and "C" a contingency. Evacuation corridors are selected as PACE options if there are safe possibilities available in each category. For example, a large open parking lot or park may be a preplanned TSRA in a community.

C. PRIORITIES

Educating our community on evacuation planning

D. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

Posted educational information on Go-Bags on Nextdoor webpage and on our Facebook page

E. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Work with our local police department on identifying alternative evacuation routes.
- Research and provide education on evacuation plans for our community
- Possible Virtual Fire Drill Day - try to engage the community on practicing an evacuation from their house and discussing issues that arise via our Nextdoor webpage.

SECTION VIII: OTHER MITIGATION & PREPAREDNESS PROJECTS

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

A. PRIORITIES

- Secure funding for and conduct a successful Fall “Dumpathon” to reduce fire fuel in our canyons. This means developing and implementing the Fall Dumpathon plan including securing funding, dumpsters, locations, and volunteers.

The Dumpathon, an annual Kensington October event for many years, consists of approximately 10 dumpsters placed throughout the neighborhood for residents to place their compostable “green” waste in, to help mitigate the brush and tree wildfire fuel loading. Volunteer “dumpster-minders”:

1. Allow a dumpster to be placed at the curb on the street adjacent to their homes.
2. Help assure that no other trash is placed in the dumpsters and
3. Monitor the dumpsters so they are not filled to overflowing.

At the end of the first week, the full dumpsters are removed and an additional set of empty dumpsters are placed at new neighborhood locations to allow other homeowners and helpful neighbors the opportunity to help create defensible space around their homes as well.

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

- Have conducted successful Fall Dumpster programs for many years.
- Collected pertinent information to begin planning 2021 “Dumpathon”.

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

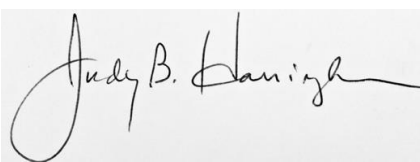
- Education on fire-prone vegetation perhaps in conjunction with the Kensington Garden Club.
- Awards, possibly donated gift certificates for fire safe landscaping. Perhaps some not-tacky yard decoration.
- We hope to negotiate a discount with a local landscaper for taking out Mexican fan palms, and maybe someday even have a joint project with Cannonlands.
- Investigate potential projects around roadside thinning, fuel breaks, and diseased/dead tree removal.

SECTION IX: SIGNATURES

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

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as developed for Kensington Fire Safe Council:

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

X 

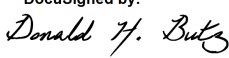
Judy B. Harrington
President
Kensington Fire Safe Council

X DocuSigned by:


Participating Fire Agency representative
(State, Local, or Tribal)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREVENTION PLANS REVIEW COMMITTEE:

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

X DocuSigned by:


Don Butz, President
Fire Safe Council of San Diego County

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.

X DocuSigned by:


Tony Mecham, Unit Chief
CAL FIRE San Diego Unit

SECTION X: APPENDICES

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

APPENDIX A: MEETING TRACKING DOCUMENTS

This CWPP was developed for the community of Kensington through a series of community meetings. The Kensington Fire Safe Council members who contributed to the document include the following:

KFSC Board of Directors:

1. Judy Harrington
2. Amy Dyson
3. Ken Burkhart
4. Vickie Pinkus

KFSC Active Members

5. Beverly Barrett, former KFSC President
5. Brian Millar - Community Volunteer
6. Kathy Chambery – Community Volunteer

Community Representatives:

1. Angela Noble- VP, Ken-Tal Business Association, owner Noble Intent Studios
2. Bill Bamburger – active and long-term Kensington resident
3. Susan Christison – KenTal Community Association Program Director
(Note: another six community representatives were asked to review but did not respond)

Agency Representatives

SD Fire Rescue Department officials (listed under first meeting date)

Meetings Dates where CWPP was discussed:

2/1/2021 - Zoom meeting with San Diego Fire Rescue Department: Joe Amador, Captain, Fire Station 18, Steven Macias: Code Compliance Officer, Marci Garcia: Senior Code Compliance Supervisor, Micah Doan: Captain, Community Resource Officer.

- **2/19/2021 & 2/26/2021** – sent to Britney Munoz for input and with questions
- **1/8/2021, 2/5/2021, 3/5/2021** - In person, socially-distanced KFSC Board of Directors
- **3/8/2021** – Zoom call with Marci Garcia
- **3/18/2021** – Zoom Ken-Tal Community Association Meeting with ~ 50 community residents

APPENDIX B: MAPS

FIGURE 1: AREA COMMUNITIES MAP

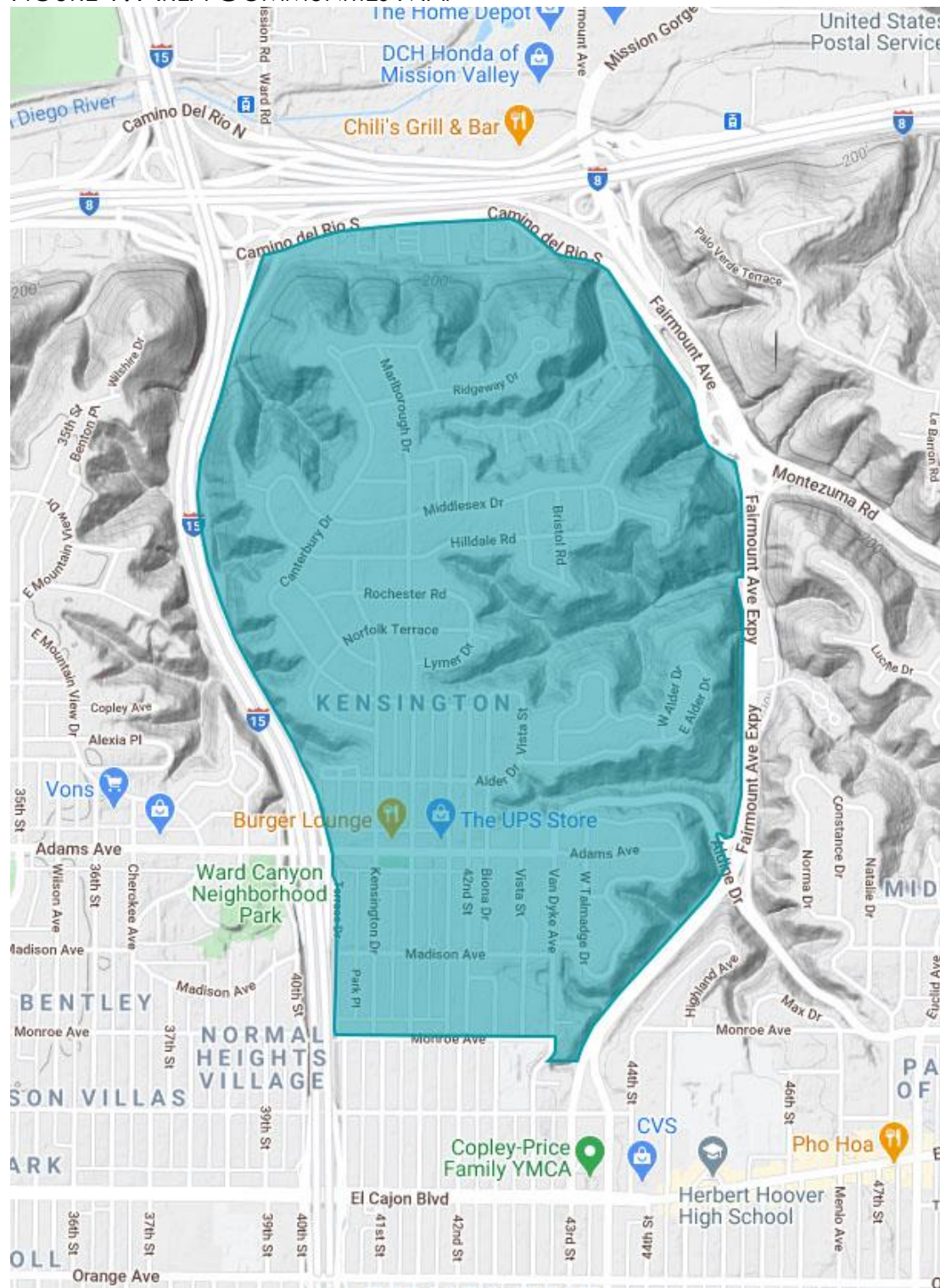
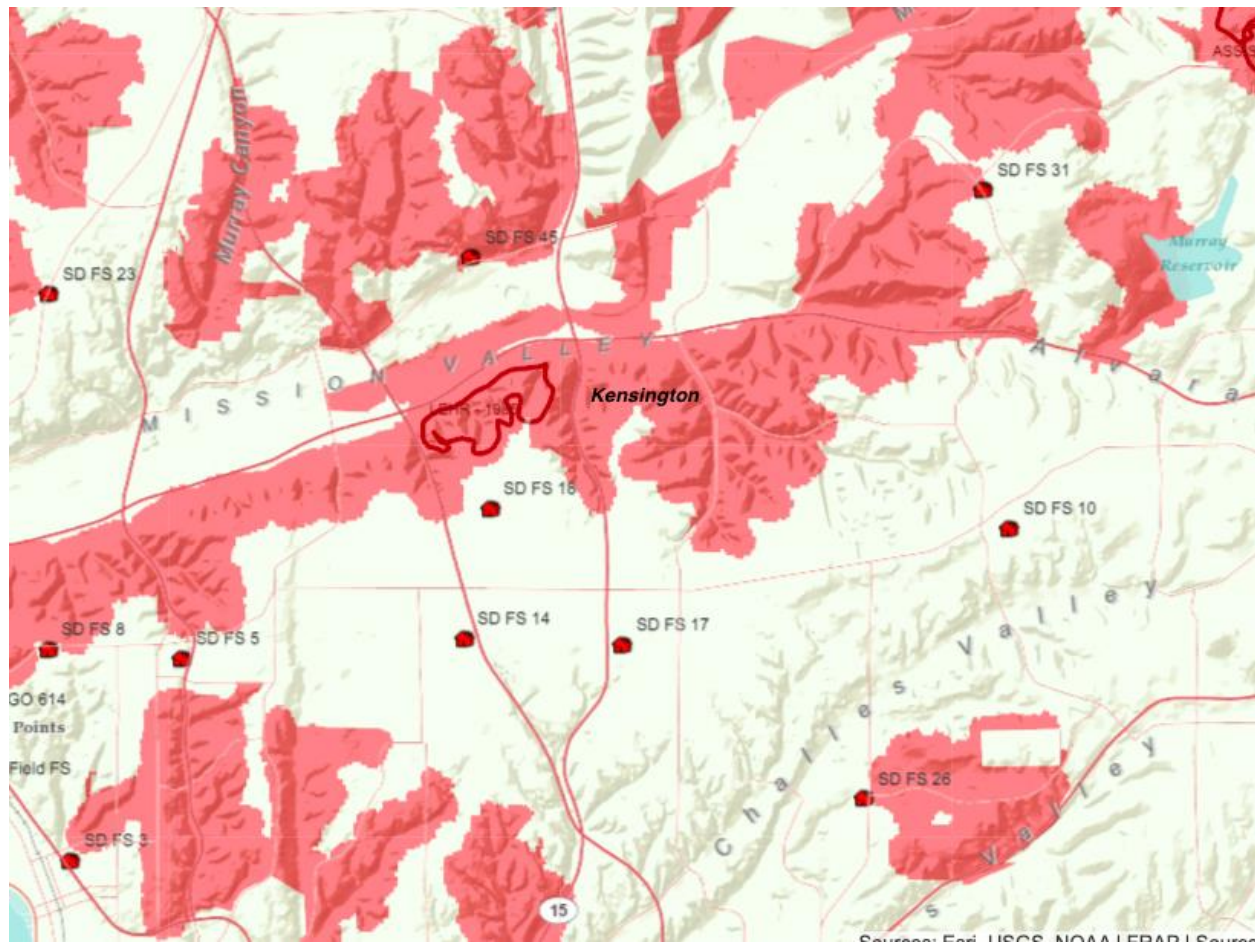
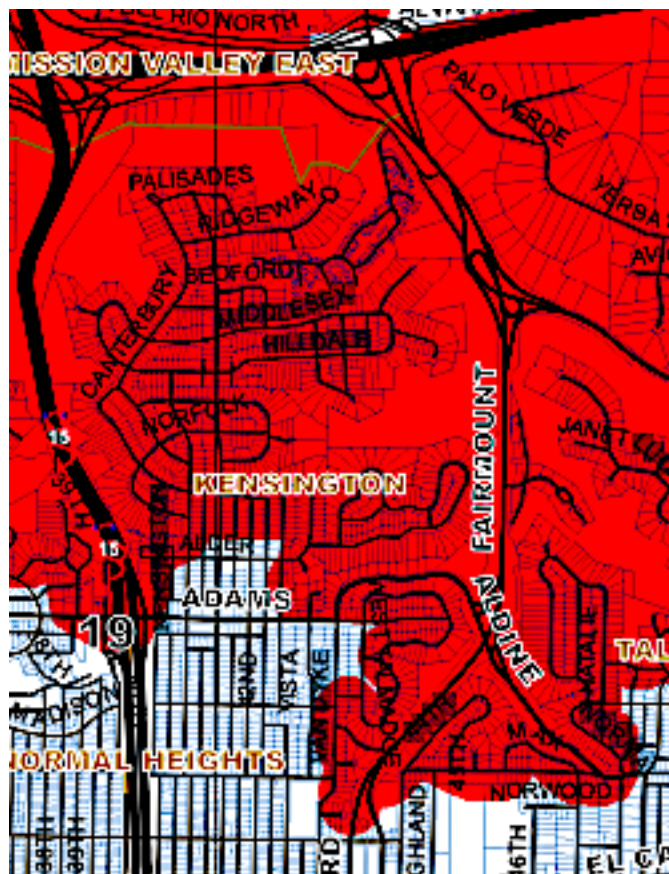
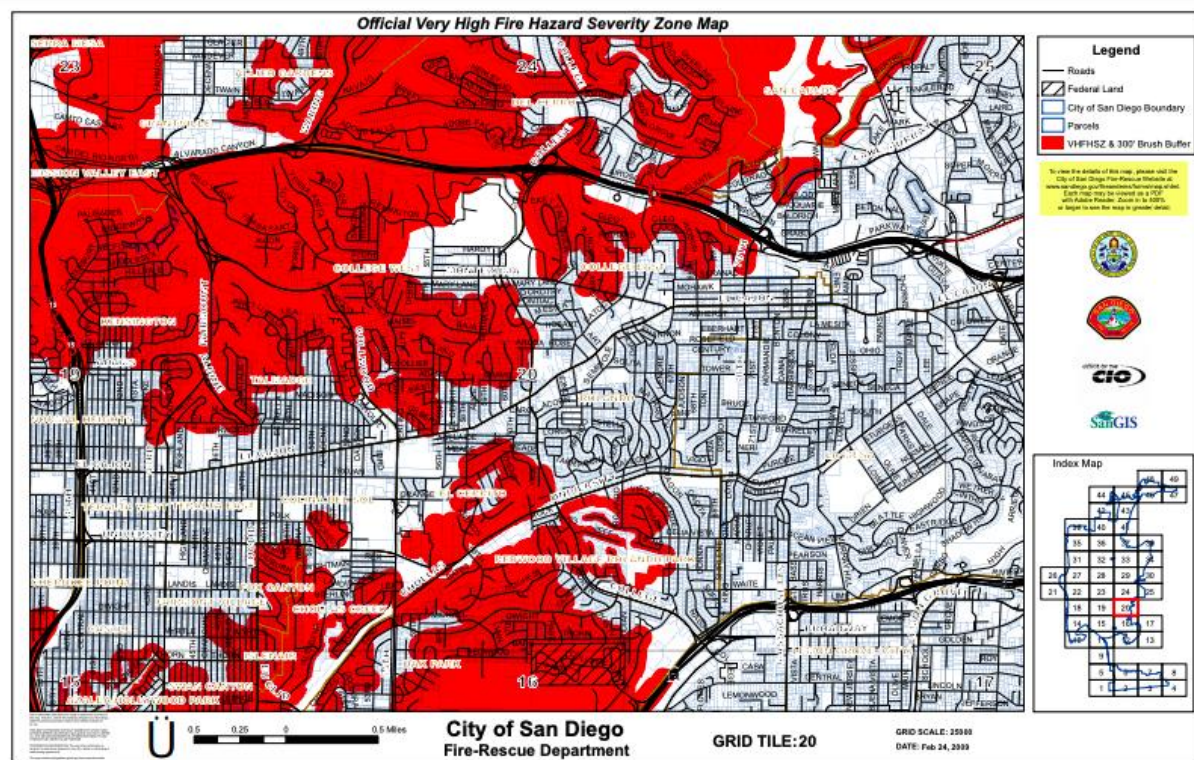


FIGURE 2: FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY MAP



Source: <https://www.readysandiego.org/content/oesready/en-us/wildfire-hazard-map.html>

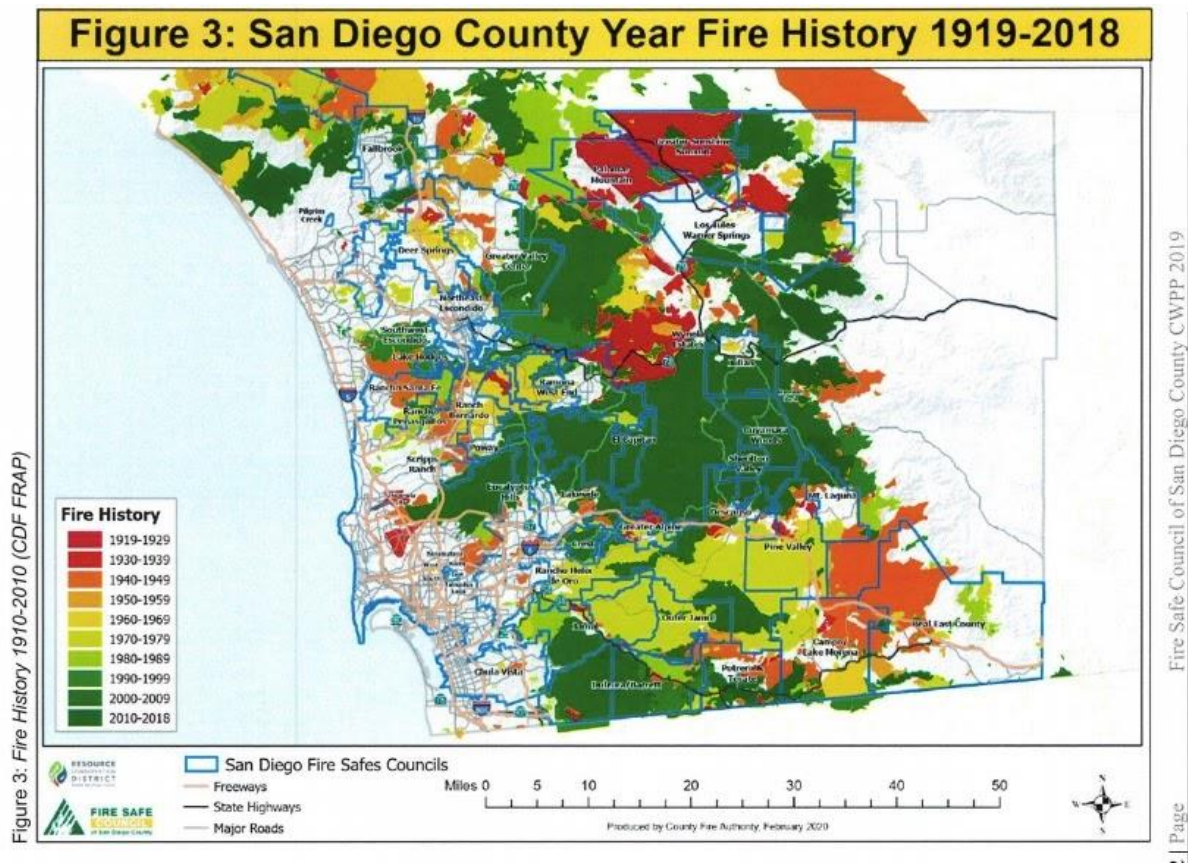
The following map and the close up are clearer at the website, from the San Diego Fire Rescue Dept, as of 2/1/2021.



Source:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/fire/pdf/maps/grid20.pdf>

FIGURE 3: FIRE HISTORY 1910-2010



Kensington-specific significant fires



Sources: <https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/789d5286736248f69c4515c04f58f414>
CalFire interactive map although it seems to be missing a number of local fires
<http://projects.caprado.org/california-fire-history/?fbclid=IwAR0W6lv7WvOR6Wc2P6-BsP1CeCbseK38gUvaYehu12nUfgEE2aLGuZzA7Vo#10.83/32.7773/-117.0199>

Daily wildfire map: <https://firemap.sdsc.edu/>

FIGURE 4: EVACUATION MAP

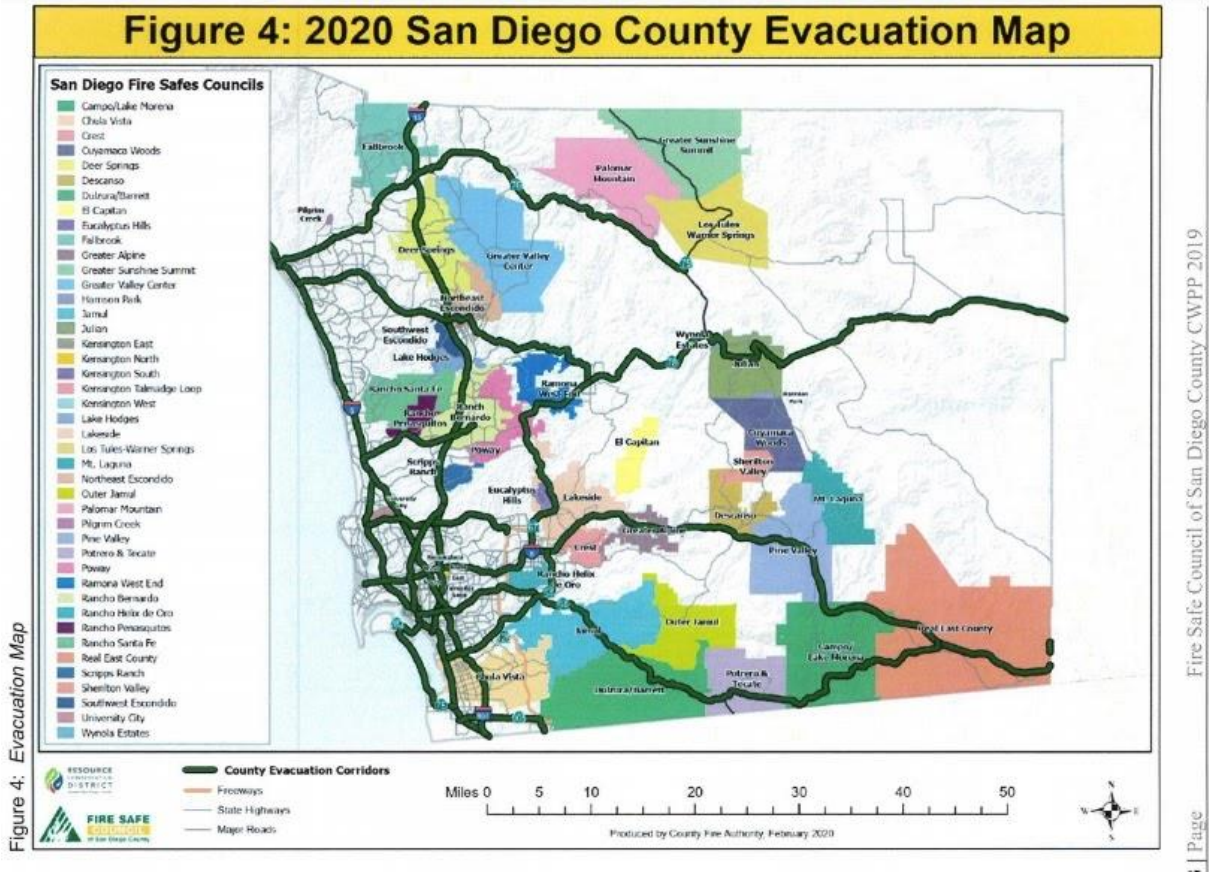
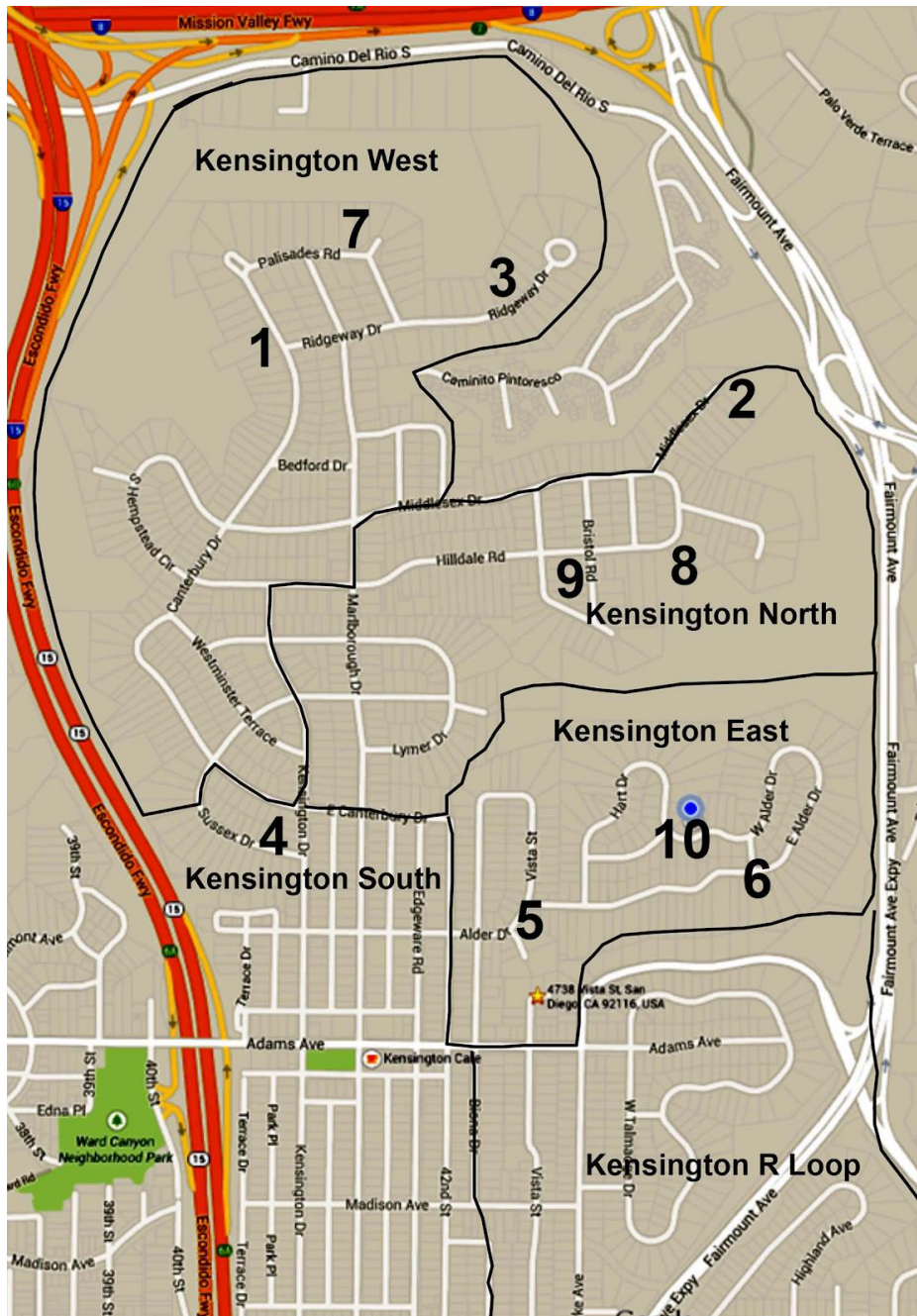


FIGURE 5: FUELS TREATMENT PROJECTS

This map shows the locations of our dumpsters in 2020. Similar distribution is planned for 2021, unless we are able to raise more funds. In that case we may have more locations.



Appendix C: 1st Amendment

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Amendment

For

Kensington Fire Safe

Date Amendment Submitted: March 2nd, 2022

Table of Contents

SECTION I: COLLABORATION:

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

2022 UPDATE: Organizational Progress:

- **IRS non-profit determination**, which we were waiting for at the time of submitting our CWPP, was received and our EIN # is 86-1268437.
- **Board Expansion** our Board of Directors from three members to six, and we have two additional potential recruits.
- **Community Recognition:** KFS co-chairs Judy Harrington and Amy Dyson, accepted recognition on behalf of KFS efforts, at The State of the District event on February 12, 2022, from Sean Elo-Rivera, City Council President and Ninth District Councilman
- **New Collaboration:** We're working with a new community partner: TreesKenTal, to promote planting drought-tolerant shade trees, particularly when replacing vulnerable, highly flammable palms in our area that the South American Palm Weevil is attacking.

LOCAL PREPAREDNESS & FIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITY

2022 UPDATE: Addressing an Evacuation Concern:

- **Alder Avenue Evacuation Access committee** was formed to investigate the narrow one-street access to the Alder circle-Hart-Argos area of our community. A meeting with Marcia Garcia and other officials is scheduled to discuss further.

SECTION II: PRIORITIZED FUEL REDUCTION TREATMENTS

EXISTING PROJECTS

2022 UPDATE:

- **Dumpathons:** We held two successful dumpster events. The Oct 2021 removed 39 tons of green fuel and the smaller February 2022 one removed almost 17 tons.
- **Canyon Cleanups –**
 - **Burnham Canyon:** we worked with our City Councilman's Office and Burnham Canyon neighbors on strategies to remove brush from their

canyon and were successful in recruiting the Transportation and Storm Water crews to clear their portion of the canyon.

- **Fairmount Canyon:** A large, highly flammable brush pile left after the 2019 fire in Fairmount Canyon was finally in March of 2021 thanks to unrelenting efforts by one of our board members. We are grateful to him and the SD Fire Department and SD Parks and Recreation Department for removing these large brush piles and making Fairmount Canyon safer from fire danger.

SECTION III: TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

2022 UPDATE:

- **Presentations:** We hosted speakers present on the following:
 - Home hardening – in person, over 30 residents attended
 - Strategies to minimize fire insurance risks
 - Landscaping for fire safety – by Zoom
 - Brush Management Guide Video by Kindra Hixon from Canyonlands
- **Articles:** In addition to videos of the above presentations, we published articles or videos on our website, Facebook page and Nextdoor on:
 - Putting grates on the openings to your Spanish tile roofs
 - Potential insurance discounts for home hardening efforts
 - The dangers of untrimmed palm trees
 - Encampment challenges
 - Fire pit dangers
 - Holiday fire hazards
 - Least flammable mulches
 - Various other fire-related topics.