

Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps & Fire Safe Council | 2022

# Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Updated: June 17, 2022



# San Diego County



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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 Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps & Fire Safe Council CWPP, which was developed collaboratively by citizens, and federal, state, and local management agencies, are to:

- Align with the 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.

### A. OVERVIEW

With roots dating back to the 1890s and historical artifacts from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and before, the City of Poway didn't become incorporated until December of 1980. The original name of the valley "Pawiiy" or "Pauwai" is derived from the Kumeyaay language of the Kumeyaay people who roamed the area for several hundred years before the Spaniards colonized the region. Its rural roots gave rise to the slogan "The City in the Country". Documents of Mission San Diego de Alcala record the name of the valley as "Paguay" as early as 1828. Although there is a disagreement on the meaning of "Paguay," the generally accepted translation signifies "the meeting of little valleys" or "end of the valley."

This "meeting of the little valleys" is a unique area bringing together varying residential communities, to include agriculture properties and ranches. Many large property owners have large animal livestock and varying terrain including canyons and open fields. It is home to a large business park that sits atop a mesa adjacent to designated open space. The business park covers over 900 acres and hosts over 600 businesses providing over 19,000 jobs. The town still boasts a number of dirt roads for use by cars, horses, bikers, and pedestrians. Poway is home to many beautiful popular parks such as Lake Poway, Iron Mountain, Blue Sky Ecological Reserve and Sycamore Canyon Preserve and Goodan Ranch. The City's trail system has more than 78 miles of some of the finest trails in Southern California that are excellent for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

As of the 2020 census, the city had a population of 48,841. The Census reported the following:

- 47,261 people (98.8% of the population) lived in households.
- 284 people (0.6%) lived in non-institutionalized group quarters.
- 266 people (0.6%) were institutionalized.
- There were 16,128 households.
- 1,185 (7.3%) had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older.
- 5,900 people (12.3%) who were 65 years of age or older.
- There were 16,715 housing units
  - 12,000 (74.4%) were owner-occupied.
- 4,128 (25.6%) were occupied by renters.
- 35,111 people (73.4% of the population) lived in owner-occupied housing units.



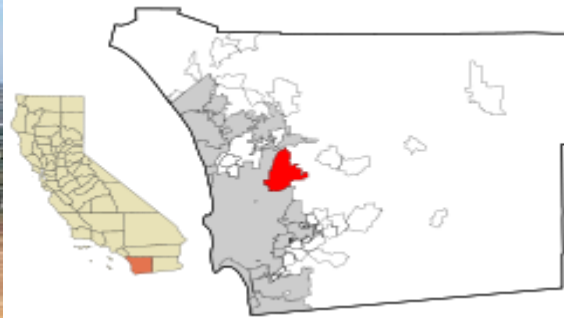
- 12,150 people (25.4%) lived in rental housing units.

The most vulnerable populations in Poway include the elderly and those in institutionalized settings, non-English speaking residents, and those living in high-risk areas. The city has 3 mobile home parks which pose a high risk due to the structures. Other high-risk areas are those close to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, open vast terrain, and steep sloping canyons.

Twin Peaks above Poway in August 2004



Location in San Diego County



## B. LANDSCAPE TOPOGRAPHY

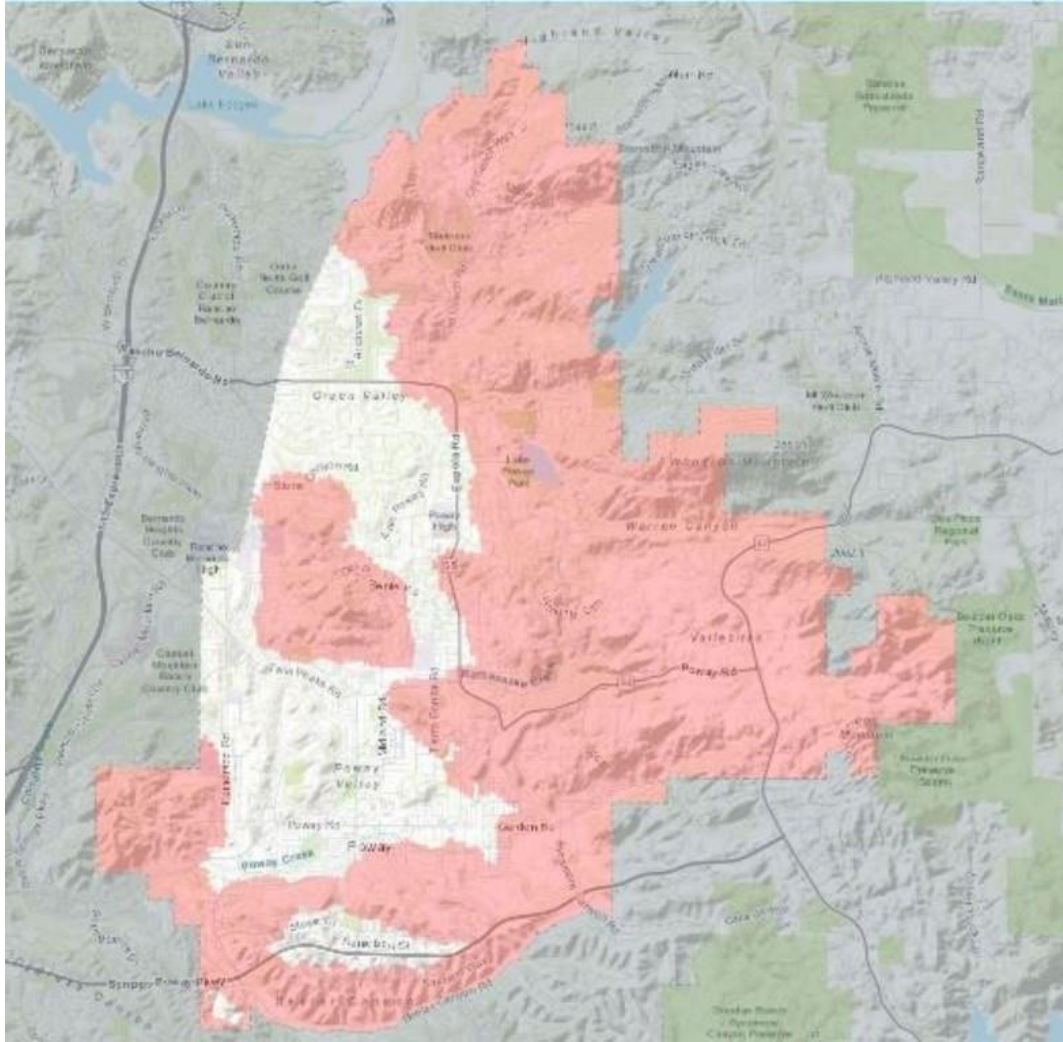
Poway is considered part of San Diego's North County. The community is north of the city of San Diego and south of the city of Escondido. Nearby communities include Rancho Bernardo northwest, Sabre Springs to the west, Scripps Ranch to the south, Rancho Peñasquitos to the west, and Ramona to the east.

The city covers an area of 39.2 square miles (102 km<sup>2</sup>), 99.78% of it is land, and 0.22% of it is water. The confluence of the 33rd parallel north and 117th meridian west is located on a hillside in a private property. The actual coordinates are: 32°58'12"N 117°02'19"W and the GNIS feature ID's are 1661258, 2411480. Elevation is 515 feet.

**A large area of Poway is located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Area (VHFHSA) indicating its threat by wildland fire.** Poway experiences a semi-arid climate (Köppen climate classification *BSh*) and is prone to experience extreme gusts of the Santa Ana's coming off the foothills just east of Poway. The city is at serious risk of wildfire due to its terrain, with steep mountainous slopes and valleys; a warm, dry climate; and highly flammable chaparral vegetation. For this reason, a comprehensive strategy for reducing the risk of wildfire is necessary. This strategy includes the creation of defensible space by clearing highly flammable chaparral vegetation around structures, and the Vegetation Management Program, involving the removal of weeds and dry grasses from private property.

The City of Poway adopts by reference the International Fire Code and the California Fire Code. Local amendments are included in the triennial adoption process that address Poway's unique climatic, geologic, and topographic characteristics. This adoption creates Poway's Fire Code within the Poway Municipal Code. The Poway Fire Code is submitted for filing to the Building Standards Commission. Fire Prevention staff applies additional code requirements and fuel modification requirements to new construction projects in these areas. Vegetation management programs applied to existing parcels is managed by Code Compliance in consultation with staff from the Fire Prevention Division.

Images in red, in the map below, indicates portions of the City of Poway which are located in the *very high fire hazard severity zone*:



## FIRE HISTORY

Major portions of the town were evacuated during both the 2003 Cedar Fire and 2007 Witch Creek Fire. These two significant fires were part of historical fires in San Diego County. In recent years, local air support and mutual aid assistance has increased significantly. This has helped to prevent small vegetation fires spreading to become out of control wildland fires.

How the **Cedar Fire** affected Poway:

- Structures (information on non-single-family dwellings not available)
- Homes - 53 single family homes in Poway (unknown total structures)
- Acres burned in Poway - 7,000
- Lives - Fifteen fatalities in the county, including one firefighter



- Evacuations - Information unavailable
- Evacuation Centers - The American Red Cross opened numerous evacuation sites throughout the county. Most residents from the Poway area evacuated to Mira Mesa High School. Qualcomm Stadium was opened by City of San Diego staff and housed thousands of evacuees for numerous days.

How the **Witch Creek** affected Poway:

- Structures - 95 structures destroyed, 90 of these were primary single-family homes.
- Acres burned in Poway - 7,247
- Lives - Ten fatalities in the county (515,000 residents in the county)
- Evacuations - 7,000 residents of Poway
- Evacuation Centers - Poway High School was initially established as an evacuation center. This site was closed 11 hours later due to poor air quality at the High School. Five hours later, city staff opened the Poway Community Center as the main evacuation site for the area. Approximately 300 residents took refuge at the community center, which closed three days later.

**The 1967 Fire** began in Ramona on October 27, 1967 and burned over 55,00 acres of San Diego County land. During the fires 26 buildings were destroyed, including 16 homes in Poway. Schools and hundreds of people were evacuated, although no information was provided as to where they were evacuated. During this fire, 300 Poway High School students were pressed into service as firefighters when the fire threatened to surround the school. 900 firefighters fought the fires including 700 who were out of area. No lives were lost, but five firefighters were burned, and one firefighter collapsed from smoke inhalation. In addition to the buildings lost, hundreds of livestock died as a result of this fire.

## KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

### Waterways

Poway operates a modern water treatment and distribution system. The heart of the city's water infrastructure begins with the importation of water from both the Colorado River and Northern California. Lake Poway serves as a storage reservoir and is able to store over 1 billion gallons of water at one time. Water flows through the Lester J. Berglund Water Treatment Plant, where approximately 3 billion gallons of drinking water are treated every year for the citizens of Poway. Once treated, the drinking water enters a system of pipes, pump stations, reservoirs for delivery to customer's homes and businesses.

The city maintains about 294 miles of water pipe. There are approximately 2,345 fire hydrants throughout the city and over 5,044 valves in the water system. Employees working in the water system are required to be certified by the State of California to work in a water system.

The City of Poway is home to three fire stations, a sheriff's department substation, one high school, two middle schools, seven elementary schools, one adult school, one library, and City Hall.

### **Residential structures**

Within the city limits are approximately 16,364 housing units. The city's vacancy rate is approximately 5 percent. There is a broad continuum of housing options available, ranging from multi-family apartments to single-family homes on large rural parcels. 74.3% of the city's housing units are single-family dwellings. The median sales price (for all recorded sales) in calendar year 2020 for a home in Poway was \$686,440 according to the 2020 census. There are 10 beautifully maintained senior and family-oriented affordable housing complexes in Poway.

The Poway Housing Authority provides the community with a variety of housing options, including high-quality, multi-family and single-family homes affordable to very low, low, and moderate-income households. Since 1983, the former Poway Redevelopment Agency and Poway Housing Authority have developed or facilitated the rehabilitation of 692 affordable living spaces in the community.

### **Habitat Features**

Poway has a variety natural diversity of plants and animals, many which are found in the rural areas, open spaces, canyons, and parks. There are many wild animal species which include mountain lion, deer, bobcats, quail, raptors, roadrunners, coyotes, squirrels, rabbits, and bats, as well as many kinds of reptiles and amphibians.

To learn more about Poway's diversity of plants and animals native to the area please see the following link with associated documents.

### **Landmarks, parks**

Poway is home to many beautiful popular parks and landmarks:

- Lake Poway
- Iron Mountain
- Blue Sky Ecological Reserve
- Sycamore Canyon Preserve and Goodan Ranch
- Aubrey Park
- Old Poway Park (home to Poway-Midland Railroad and Poway Historical and Memorial Society)
- Starridge Park
- Poway Community Park
- Interpretive Center at Pauwai
- City of Poway Trails
- Poway Community Theater / Civic Arts Center

### **Businesses**

In addition to the large business park home to over 600 businesses, there are numerous small business and strip malls in Poway along with agricultural and horse ranches operating as businesses.

There are 25 elementary schools, 6 middle schools and 6 high schools, a home-schooling program and a K-8 school. The Poway Unified School District includes schools in neighboring areas of Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos and Sabre Springs.

Along with the Community Church of Poway, the town's first church, which has remained in operation since 1887, making it the house of worship with the longest continual operation in San Diego County, there are an additional 13 places of worship of varying religions.

### **Historical sites**

- Dearborn Memorial Park - This memorial park was established in 1884 and has many founding members of the Poway community buried there.
- Flint Farm - House built in 1882.
- DJ Ranch (Formerly the Walter Kent Farm) - Built in late-1890s.
- Old Poway Park - The grounds of Poway Park is home to significant historical sites:
  - Poway/Midland Railroad
  - The Nelson House - Built in 1915
  - The Porter House - Home to artist Juliet Porter
  - Templars Hall - Built in 1886 and served as the first Poway high school from 1895-1897
- Poway Rodeo Grounds - This annual event began in 1973 and celebrates its 45th year in September 2021.
- Kumeyaay Ipai Interpretive Center - a five-acre site in central Poway which informs visitors about the native Americans who inhabited this area and provides a 45-minute tour on the Ipai Waaypuk Trail, which includes interpretive site of a village.
- Community Church of Poway - established in 1884.

### **Farms / Ranches**

Poway has many horse ranches, particularly to the east and in Sycamore Canyon. With this in mind, PNEC offers large animal evacuation information and presentations.

### **MAPS**

Using technology and local expertise, the sponsors of this CWPP have included a series of maps depicting the site and situation of the Poway Community (Appendix C). The following maps are visual aids from which the PNEC & FSC 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

## C. FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

The Poway Fire Department is an all-hazard, all-risk response agency. From three fire stations, 17 personnel respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service by staffing three paramedic engines, a paramedic ladder truck, two paramedic ambulances and one incident commander (Fire Battalion Chief).

The Poway Fire Department has been classified as a Class 1/1X department by the Insurance Services Organization's Public Protection Classification program. ISO's Public Protection Classification program measures and evaluates the effectiveness of fire-mitigation services in communities throughout the country.

### **Poway Fire Stations**

The Poway Fire Department maintains 3 strategically located fire stations around the clock. Each fire station is maintained to ensure that firefighters are in a constant state of readiness and can quickly respond.



**Fire Station 1**  
13050  
Community Road  
Poway, CA 92064  
- [Map](#)





**Fire Station 2 -  
Established  
1973**

16912 Westling  
Court  
Poway, CA  
92064 - [Map](#)



**Fire Station 3:  
Established  
2005**

14322  
Pomerado  
Road  
Poway, CA  
92064 - [Map](#)



## 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 PNEC & FSC 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
Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps (PNEC)	<p>Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps (PNEC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on disaster preparedness education. We provide outreach activities and educational programs to better prepare community members for emergencies and disasters such as wildfires, earthquakes, and floods.</p> <p>PNEC is an all-volunteer organization and is not part of the City of Poway. However, PNEC works closely with the Poway Fire Department and serves only as an educational outreach organization as it relates to fire and wildfire safety and prevention.</p> <p>The Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps was established in 2011 after a group of residents identified the need for the community to be better prepared and informed regarding wildfire and other emergencies.</p> <p>PNEC has been hosting and providing community workshops and events on emergency preparedness since its inception and has steadily grown outreach activities and collaborations. PNEC established its 501(c)(3) status in 2018.</p>
City of Poway	<p>The city supports disaster preparedness with an active, full-time Disaster Preparedness Coordinator on staff. The PNEC President and the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator work closely together.</p> <p>The city's general <b>mission</b> is to enrich the community and the quality of life through an exceptional blend of recreation, arts, leisure, and cultural programs, and to provide parks/facilities and open space for all.</p>

Poway Fire Department	Maintains three strategically located fire stations around the clock. Each fire station is maintained to ensure that firefighters are ready and can respond. Poway's fire training facilities are used by outside fire departments for training.
San Diego County Fire Safe Council	Helps residents protect their families and homes from wildfire. Provides programs and services to respond and promotes fire safety and prevention while encouraging family involvement.
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	CERT program educates volunteers on disaster preparedness for disasters that may impact their community and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.
San Diego Sheriff's Department	The City of Poway has contracted with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department (SDSO) since incorporation. The City of Poway is one of nine municipalities that contract for law enforcement services from the SDSO. Poway maintains a facility, the San Diego Sheriff's Poway Station, staffed with sworn, civilian, reserve and volunteer personnel. The Poway Station is managed by a Captain with assistance from a Lieutenant.
Poway Auxiliary Communications Team (PACT)	PACT consists of Ham Radio enthusiasts from Poway and the surrounding area. PACT members communicate via Ham Radio on a weekly basis to ensure their readiness to respond to emergencies. PACT members will report to the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the event of a significant emergency. PNEC collaborates with PACT and other agencies and groups to train and license Ham Radio operators with the goal of providing key information during emergencies.

## 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.

### City of Poway & Fire Department's Emergency Preparedness

Knowing what to do and how to stay safe in the event of an emergency is the responsibility of individuals, families, and businesses alike. The City of Poway offers resources on what you need to do to be prepared and how you can be involved in your community preparedness efforts.

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**
- **Preparedness Planning for your Business**  
Businesses can do much to prepare for the impact of the many hazards they face in today's world.
- **Programs & Services**  
Access information on a variety of services and programs related to emergency preparedness.
- **Ready, Set, Go! Program**  
The Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) Program seeks to develop and improve the dialogue between fire departments and the residents they serve.

### Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps & Fire Safe Council (PNEC)

Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps provides community outreach and education programs and activities related to emergency and wildfire safety prevention and preparedness. PNEC is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, not affiliated with the City of Poway. However, PNEC does work closely with the Poway Fire Department and serves only as an educational outreach organization as it relates to Fire Safety and Prevention in the community. PNEC does not and has been instructed by the Fire Department not to provide any fuel hazard reduction activities at the landscape level, only educational outreach activities.

PNEC is strictly an educational entity to residents of Poway. PNEC provides information through participating in community fairs, community meetings, and accepting invitations to present at neighborhood meetings, apartment complex meetings and businesses.

Our community outreach program's goal is to educate our residents and community on wildfire safety and prevention practices to mitigate or lessen the burden of wildfire.

## A. PRIORITIES

PNEC provides ongoing community education to ensure that citizens are aware of the critical preparedness information. Community education focuses on:

- Education and preparedness for the local community.
- Assistance services when an active emergency situation is present in the community.
- Outreach to the community to ensure that community members know of our existence.
- Ongoing evaluation of how the organization is responding to calls from the community.
- To assist community members with information to help them improve their homes and property regarding fire safety.
- To assist the elderly and other community members who may need assistance to achieve structural hardening for their home, property and/or building structures.
- Attend 4-5 community fairs annually providing educational materials on defensible space and vegetation management.
- Provide educational PSAs via social media.
- Continue to collaborate with the Poway Fire Department to be well versed on the Poway Municipal Code 15.24 - See [Chapter 15.24 FIRE CODE \(codepublishing.com\)](#).

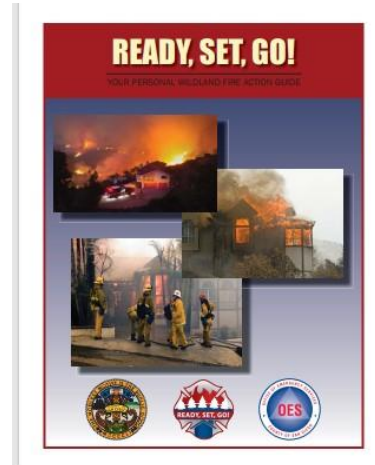
## B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

- The PNEC has developed a map which breaks Poway up into 60 service areas, with the goal of having a neighborhood coordinator and Ham Radio operator assigned to each area.
- Each neighborhood coordinator develops a neighborhood directory which details critical information about residents.
- Neighborhood coordinators promote the development and use of Neighborhood Directories for Emergencies by hosting meetings and distributing flyers.
- In collaboration with the Poway Fire Chief, a virtual presentation of Poway's 2020 Wildfire Preparedness through social media.

- Collaborating with the Poway Sheriff's Department, assisting with the National Night Out 2020.
- PNEC members will be able to attend the San Diego County Fire Safe Council's workshop "Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface" when workshops resume.
- A link to the San Diego Humane Society's Animal and Pet Preparedness section on the PNEC website.
- Ham Radio Course - Basic Training and Licensing.
- CPR and Basic First Aid Training.
- PNEC has provided training opportunities for PNEC members to become vetted Poway volunteers in collaboration with the City of Poway's Disaster Preparedness Coordinator by completing the City of Poway's TEP (Temporary Evacuation Point) Intake Training to support the American Red Cross.
- Medical Supplies and Grocery Provisions assistance provided to the local community during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Defensible space information and education provided to residents at the Emergency Safety Fair held each May at Old Poway Park and National Night Out hosted by the Sheriff's Department each August.
- Social media posts with information about clearing defensible space around homes.
- Yearly community meeting with the Fire Chief to educate residents on hardening homes and ensuring defensible space around homes.
- PNEC and CERT members regularly educate the community on the importance of registering for AlertSanDiego, the local reverse 9-1-1 to receive emergency information. The County of San Diego participates in the Wireless Emergency Access (WEA) system. The Sheriff's Department will oversee all emergency messaging for evacuations in the Poway area. Five city staff members have the ability to issue emergency messaging through the Blackboard Connect system.
- Emergency Preparedness Fairs:
  - Drive-Through Fair -- August 16, 2020 & October 3, 2020. Poway residents were invited to drive through the Poway City Hall parking lot where information stations were set up to answer questions and provide information about preparedness. Emergency "starter kits" were provided to all residents who drove through the event. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all participants wore masks and gloves, as well as utilized social distancing to promote the health of all who attended. Approximately 500 families received preparedness information in these two events.
  - Live – In Person Fair, August 2021



***Example of educational materials  
distributed at emergency fairs***



### C. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Public Service Announcement (PSA) created with monies provided by Cal Fire Educational grant.
- CPR and Basic First Aid Training provided to the Community.
- Poway Emergency Survival Fair
- Preparedness education and hands only CPR training at the local Farmer's Market.
- Future participation in National Night Out and Field Day (a yearly ham radio event).
- SDG&E Wildfire Resiliency and Operations Webinar
- PNEC Public Service Announcement to include educational tips on structural hardening.
- Continue to attend community events in educating the public on the importance of defensible space, hardening structures, knowing evacuation routes, registering for Alert and Warning calls, and preparing a 72-hour emergency 'go-kit'.
- PNEC has recently submitted a grant through CalFire for approximately \$88,000. If granted, this funding would be utilized for education to our community with 44 PSAs through TikToc, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. In this messaging, residents will be encouraged to 'Know 2 Ways Out' for evacuation purposes. Community members will be reminded to call 2-1-1 for information on evacuation and sheltering and reminded to follow social media for up-to-date information on evacuation and sheltering.

## SECTION IV: STRUCTURAL HARDENING

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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.

The City of Poway has land, both public and private, that is impacted by agreements with the State Fish and Wildlife Services. These agreements, which are taken to ensure the environmental protection of both plant and animal species, can be old, and follow the land rather than the owner. That is why before any structural hardening or fuel treatment can be completed, each Poway property owner must get approval from the Poway Planning Department for their project. The Planning Department works cooperatively with the Fire Department to research and advise owners about what projects they can complete on their property.

These factors prevent PNEC and FSC from organizing any chipping or other debris-clearing projects. And therefore, we provide educational material and direct residents to the city.

### A. PRIORITIES

- PNEC & FSC to provide educational material and information only.
- Follow regulations accordingly.
- To assist community members with information to help them improve their homes and property regarding fire safety.
- To assist the elderly and other community members who may need assistance to achieve structural hardening for their home, property and/or building structures.

### B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

### C. FUTURE PROJECTS

## SECTION V: DEFENSIBLE SPACE

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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

B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

C. FUTURE PROJECTS

## SECTION VI: FUELS TREATMENT

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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. COMPLETED AND ONGOING PROJECTS

B. PRIORITIES

C. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

D. FUTURE PROJECTS

## 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 the Poway'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

Community members are instructed to know two ways out of their neighborhood and be aware of two ways out of the community. Because most life-threatening wildfires start in the east, residents are encouraged to evacuate to the west, south, and north. The following roadways are generally the safest:

West:

- Poway Road
- Espola Road to Rancho Bernardo Road
- Scripps Poway Parkway
- Ted Williams Parkway

North/South

- Pomerado Road
- Interstate 15
- Espola Road to Rancho Bernardo Road (west)

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

The City of Poway, in partnership with the American Red Cross, has identified nine schools, churches, and community centers as authorized evacuation sites and overnight shelters. These are predetermined sites with adequate areas to put down cots for sleeping. These facilities also have adequate restrooms. Residents are not assigned to an evacuation site in advance of the emergency. Due to the unpredictable nature of wildland fires, evacuation sites will be selected at the time of the emergency. Residents will be notified by reverse 9-1-1 calls, social media and the media of open shelter sites and or Temporary Evacuation Points (TEP) as needed.

Approximately 100 staff and local volunteers have been trained in Shelter Operations to augment the staffing of evacuation shelters when needed.

Temporary Evacuation Points are not predetermined sites. These are established by the Sheriff's Department at the moment of an evacuation. TEP's are intended to immediately evacuate neighborhoods and have a safe location for people to gather and receive additional information. If residents cannot return home for an extended period, they will then be directed to



overnight shelters. A TEP can be a parking lot, shopping center or House of Worship, or any other safe place the Sheriff chooses at the time.

A Temporary Safe Refuge Area (TSRA) is a large open area residents can go to if their primary or alternate routes become suddenly impassable. Poway has identified approximately 9 of these open space areas, with adequate parking and restroom facilities, that residents could use during an emergency to shelter in place. These areas are identified on the Poway PACE map.

## C. PRIORITIES

The following are key priorities to maintaining evacuation access for residents and visitors to (community):

- The City of Poway continues to provide landscape maintenance along roadways to provide clearance for evacuating in an emergency. The Public Works Department has Emergency Response Teams on-call 24-hours a day to quickly respond to downed trees and debris in roadways that could block the evacuation of residents. City staff will also respond to power outages that cause disruption to traffic signals that might delay the safe evacuation of residents.
- The City's Public Information Officer (PIO) provides up-to-date information to the public through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, the city's website, and press releases to the local newspaper. The PIO maintains constant communication with the Joint Information Center (JIC) in large scale emergencies, to ensure consistent and accurate messaging.

## D. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

In 2020, the City of Poway was awarded a \$1.4 million grant through FEMA'S Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This grant allows the city to identify dead and dying trees along two major evacuation routes. These trees will be pruned and pulled as needed to decrease the chance of a major fire spreading through these evacuation routes, enabling quick access for residents to evacuate the community during emergencies.

## E. FUTURE PROJECTS

## SECTION VIII: OTHER MITIGATION & PREPAREDNESS PROJECTS

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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 mentioned.

The City of Poway has land, both public and private, that is impacted by agreements with the State Fish and Wildlife Services. These agreements, which are taken to ensure the environmental protection of both plant and animal species, can be old, and follow the land rather than the owner. That is why before any structural hardening or fuel treatment, or mitigation projects can be completed, each Poway property owner must get approval from the Poway Planning Department for their project. The Planning Department works cooperatively with the Fire Department to research and advise owners about what projects they can complete on their property.

These factors prevent PNEC and FSC from organizing any chipping or other debris-clearing projects. And therefore, we provide educational material and direct residents to the city.

### A. PRIORITIES

### B. COMPLETED AND / OR ONGOING PROJECTS

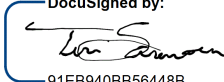
### C. FUTURE PROJECTS

## 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 Poway:

- 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  DocuSigned by:  
91EB940BB56448B

Terri Sorensen  
President, PNEC

X  DocuSigned by:  
640B84420334467...

Jeff Chumbley  
Fire Chief, City of Poway

## **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   
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   
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 Poway, through a series of community meetings. The PNEC & FSC members who contributed to the document include the following:

**PNEC CWPP Development Team:**

Terri Sorensen, PNEC President

Beverly Dunlap, PNEC Treasurer

Vickie Hoey, PNEC Vice President Board Member and FSC Committee Member

Susy Turnbull – PNEC Board Member and City of Poway Disaster Preparedness Coordinator

**Meeting Dates:**

June 12, 2020 – 3:00PM

Initial Meeting to discuss CWPP

Attendees: Terri Sorensen, Beverly Dunlap, Vickie Hoey

Meeting held virtually

July 3, 2020 - 1:00PM

Review Meeting

Attendees: Terri Sorensen and Vickie Hoey

Meeting held virtually

July 7, 2020 - 1:00PM

Review Meeting

Attendees: Terri Sorensen, Vickie Hoey, Beverly Dunlap, Susy Turnbull

Meeting held virtually

February 2022 10:45am – 12:00pm

Review Meeting

Attendees: Terri Sorensen, Vickie Hoey, Beverly Dunlap

Meeting held Mainstream Bar & Grill, Poway

February 22, 2022

Review Meeting

Attendees: Terri Sorensen, Vickie Hoey, Beverly Dunlap, Susy Turnbull, Scott Post

Meeting Held at the City of Poway, Fire Department meeting room



## APPENDIX B: MAPS

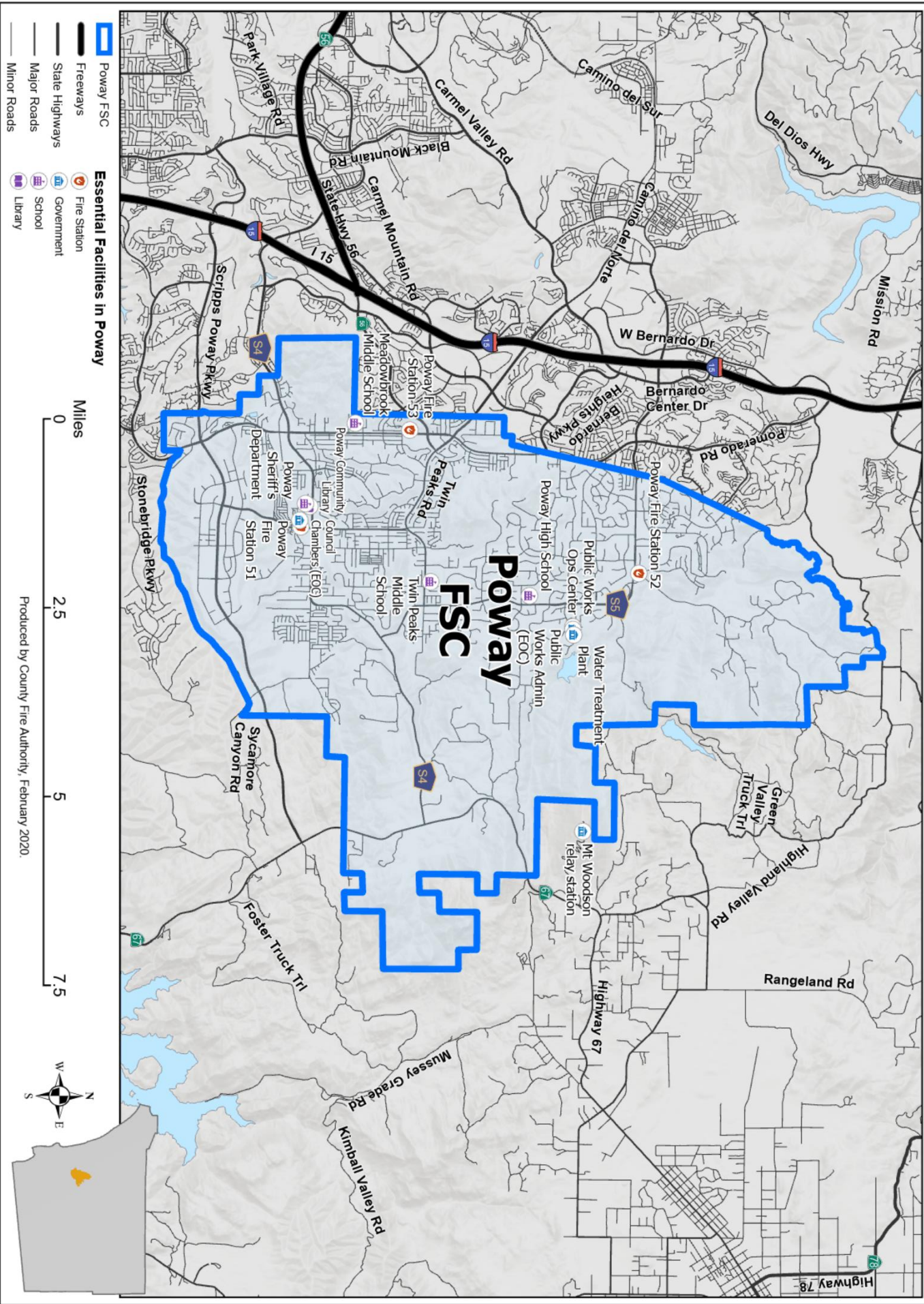
FIGURE 1: AREA COMMUNITIES MAP

FIGURE 2: FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY MAP

FIGURE 3: FIRE HISTORY 1910-2010

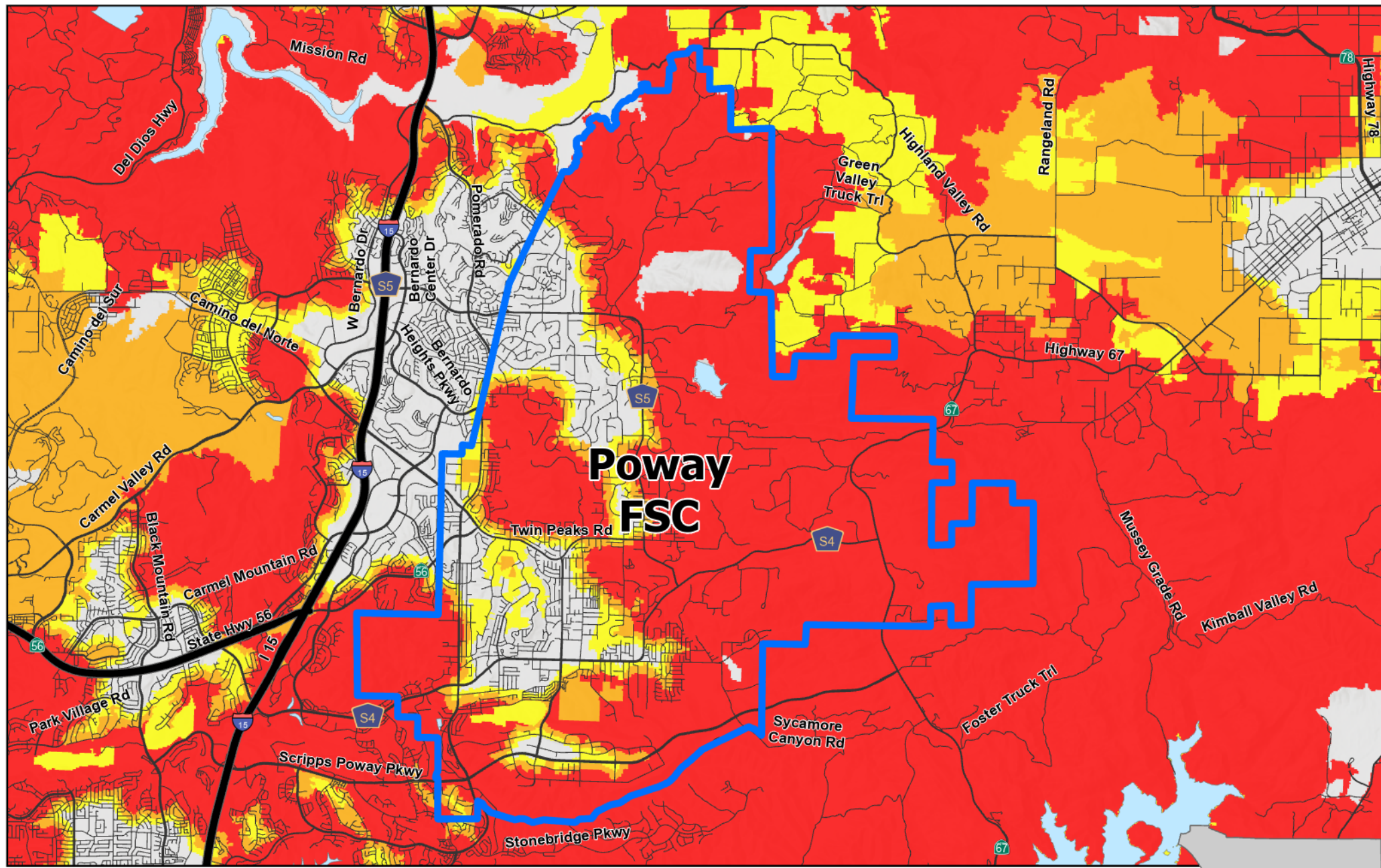
FIGURE 4: EVACUATION MAP

Figure 1: Poway Area Communities Map





# Figure 2: Poway Fire Hazard Severity Map

**Fire Hazard Severity Zones**

- Moderate
- High
- Very High

- Freeways
- State Highways
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads

Miles

0

2.5

5

7.5

Produced by County Fire Authority, July 2020.

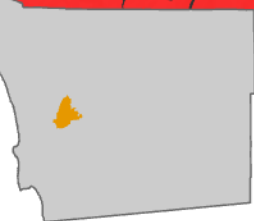






Figure 4: Poway FSC Evacuation Map

