

2025



Community Wildfire Protection Plan

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN



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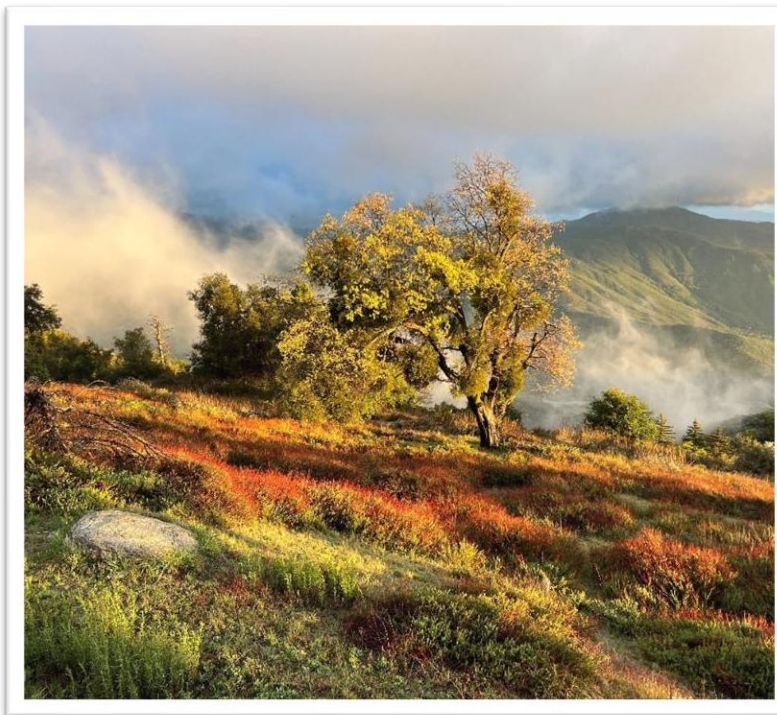
Preface

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 Palomar Mountain (PM) FSC CWPP, which was developed collaboratively by citizens, and federal, state and local management agencies, are to:

- Align with the San Diego region’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 which is comprised of a 15-member board of directors consisting of leading representatives from federal, state, and local agencies and stakeholders throughout San Diego County. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

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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.

I. OVERVIEW

Palomar Mountain is a rural unincorporated mountaintop community of 69 square miles located in Northern San Diego County, surrounded by the Cleveland National Forest. Our community is within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) and borders the Cleveland National Forest and multiple tribal reservations. We are in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) classified by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) as a Tier 3 Extreme Fire Threat Area, and by CAL FIRE as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ).

Our community includes many small cabins crowded together on heavily forested lots, as well as a dozen or so isolated estates, sprawling ranches, and visitor facilities. The community includes approximately 250 homes, of which about 60% are occupied full-time and 40% are for seasonal or occasional use. Almost all dwellings on Palomar are accessed by narrow dirt easements or poorly maintained private roads. Most homes are concentrated on the eastern mountaintop in the Crestline/ Birch Hill/ Observation Point areas. In the western area, Bailey Meadow includes about 30 homes. The remaining habitable structures are scattered throughout the community.

There are about 300 full-time residents, and approximately 150 part-time residents and weekenders on Palomar Mountain. Among full-time residents, 11% live in poverty, 40% are 60 or older, and 24% are 65 or older. In addition, up to 14,000

people, mostly youth, stay at the Palomar Christian Conference Center annually, including up to 350 at any one time. Every year thousands of tourists and campers visit the Palomar Observatory, and Federal, State, County, and private campgrounds and parks. Palomar Mountain is also a world-famous destination for bicycle riding clubs, car rallies, and motorcycle clubs. Up to 1500-2000 residents and visitors may be present on the mountain at any one time.

The Palomar Mountain fuel reduction program has focused on preventing wildfire from reaching the mountaintop where almost all homes are located. The many micro-climates of Palomar Mountain vary greatly by elevation, prevailing winds, sunlight, soil type, rainfall, and groundwater resources. Fuels treatment and management need to be matched appropriately to the vegetation for each ecosystem, with different approaches for chaparral vs. forest. The Palomar Mountain community is located within the Cleveland National Forest and includes the Palomar Mountain State Park and parts of the La Jolla Indian Reservation, so collaboration is essential.

Our major current fire hazards arise from volatile dense brush and dead trees on steep mountain slopes, both within and surrounding our community. Much vegetation has regrown since the major PMFSC fuel reduction projects on private land in 2008-2012. Areas previously fuel-reduced need to be re-evaluated and re-treated. Topography, and

the lack of roads and trails, limit areas where fuels treatments are possible or would be effective. In these areas, fuels treatments are typically concentrated near values at risk, and where they will complement suppression activity and add to protection effectiveness.

Drought stress and beetle infestations have taken a toll, first on the pine trees and then on the oaks. The Gold Spotted Oak Borer now presents a massive die-off threat for over 50,000 susceptible oak trees on the mountain.

The goal of the PM CWPP is to reduce fuel within the Palomar Mountain community through continuing education of new and existing property owners and collaboration with federal, state and county agencies.

Population: about 300 full-time residents, and approximately 150 part-time residents

II. LANDSCAPE

Topography

Palomar Mountain is the most northwesterly member of the Peninsular Range rising over 5000 feet from the surrounding lowlands. Its steep sides are covered in chamise and mixed chaparral at the lower elevations, changing into oak woodlands and mixed forest near the summit. Elevation reaches 6,100 feet at the Palomar Observatory. The active Elsinore Fault runs along the southern base of the mountain.

Vegetation on the mountaintop is primarily montane coniferous forest with pine species, incense cedar, white fir, black oak, canyon live oak, and big-cone Douglas fir. Annual and perennial grasses occupy the mountain valleys with areas of chaparral and oak woodland on the drier southern aspects. Due to the terrain and mix of highly flammable native chaparral and forest, Palomar Mountain is designated as Tier 3 Extreme Fire Threat Area (CPUC) and a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE).

Water is a limiting resource on Palomar Mountain. There is no external water supply; all water comes from wells. Some residents belong to the two

mutual water companies, and some have individual wells. Therefore, water resources for firefighting are extremely limited.

Fire History

Most of Palomar Mountain's slopes have burned over the past 30 years in a series of fires including the Aguanga Fire (1984), Palomar Fire (1987), the Vail Fire (1989), La Jolla Fire (1999) and the Pechanga Fire (2000). The most recent Poomacha Fire (2007) began as a structure fire on the La Jolla Indian Reservation on the southern border of the mountain, raced rapidly up the face of Palomar Mountain. It extensively burned the southern and western slopes and established itself in the Agua Tibia Wilderness where, because of steep and rugged terrain, the fire continued to burn after all other October 2007 San Diego County fires were extinguished. The mountaintop itself, however, has not had a major fire in recorded history.

Key Infrastructure

- San Diego County/CAL FIRE and US Forest Service stations
- Telecommunications relay towers serving much of San Diego County
- Powerlines (San Diego Gas & Electric)
- Two mutual water systems, each with wells, tanks, piping, offices
- Spring water sources and water-truck load station structures
- San Diego County road maintenance station
- State and County parks
- Cleveland National Forest (US Forest Service) campgrounds, scenic overlooks, and hiking trails
- Volunteer-staffed Fire Lookout Towers
- California Institute of Technology Palomar Observatory
- Palomar Christian Conference Center
- Enterprises including general store, restaurant, US Post Office, Yoga Center, resorts, and vacation rentals
- Active cattle ranches
- Historic and cultural resources, including archeological sites and artifacts

Maps

Using technology and local expertise, the sponsors of this CWPP have included a series of maps depicting the site and situation of the Palomar Mountain community (Appendix B). The following maps are visual aids from which Palomar Mountain FSC and community members can assess and make recommendations.

1. Area Communities Map
2. Fire Hazard Severity map
3. Fire History (1996-Present)
4. Evacuation Map
5. Know Your Zone Map

III. FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

All fire jurisdictions within and near the PMFSC area are listed below.

Palomar Mountain community fire protection is provided 24/7 by Station 79, our sole local fire station. Station 79 is staffed for fire and medical response in cooperation with San Diego Fire Protection District and CAL FIRE.

US Forest Service is the primary fire protection agency for wildfire response within the Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). Staffing for the USFS fire stations depends on seasonal weather. USFS and CAL FIRE assist each other if requested.

02

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.

I. KEY PARTNERS

The **Palomar Mountain 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
Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council	Primary developer of the CWPP, responsible for decision-making, community risk assessment, community protection priorities and recommendations for fuels treatment projects and methods within the area.
CAL FIRE and San Diego County Fire Protection District	Facilitates the planning and approval of the CWPP process, including developing minimum standards. Provides input and expertise on forestry, wildland urban interface, fire, fuels and Firewise concepts. Provides fire-related input and expertise pertaining to areas of State Responsibility and County Fire jurisdiction, and GIS support.
Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association (DBA)	Provides local information, expertise and resources related to firefighting and fire prevention projects.
Palomar Mountain Planning Organization	Provides local information, resources and recommendations related to firefighting and fire prevention projects.

<p>United States Forest Service/ Cleveland National Forest</p>	<p>Provides current, local information and expertise on USFS lands and the wildland-urban interface, including on fire prevention, fuels treatment and land management activities.</p>
<p>Fire Safe Council of San Diego County / Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County</p>	<p>Provides educational outreach and support for pre-wildfire disaster planning, defensible space, fuel reduction and hazard assessment. Helps agencies and Fire Safe Councils collaborate.</p>
<p>San Diego County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)</p>	<p>Trains and organizes teams of volunteers to provide community assistance before, during, and after disasters. Volunteers support emergency response agencies and the Fire Safe Council by organizing and participating in local preparedness projects and initiatives.</p>
<p>San Diego County Sheriff's Department</p>	<p>Responsible for local law enforcement services in the community, including conducting evacuations as needed in the event of a wildfire or other emergency.</p>
<p>CA State Park</p>	<p>Provides input and expertise related to State Parks-managed lands.</p>
<p>Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company</p>	<p>Provides water to shareholder residents in the Crestline/Birch Hill area and to the San Diego County Palomar Mountain Fire Station 79.</p>
<p>Local Native American Tribes</p>	<p>Collaborate by providing local information and expertise on behalf of the La Jolla, Rincon, and Pala Reservation Volunteer Fire Departments.</p>

03

Community Engagement & Education

The PMFSC provides ongoing community education to improve understanding and compliance with guidelines for defensible space, structural hardening, fire preparedness, fuel reduction, fire protection, and evacuation planning. The Palomar Mountain community is heterogeneous and individualistic, making community communication and engagement particularly challenging. The knowledge, needs and means of communication differ greatly by residency (full-time vs. part-time vs. visitor vs. absentee), age, health status, and financial situation; so, there are no one-size-fits-all solutions.

I. PRIORITIES

- Educate about and encourage the use of electronic communication for emergency fire information, alerts and evacuation.
- Raise awareness of the risk of wildfire based on topography, weather, and fuels and what it means to live in an environment highly susceptible to fires.
- Improve public understanding of and compliance with defensible space and structural hardening guidelines.
- Become a recognized NFPA Firewise Community.
- Provide up-to date information to the Palomar Mountain community about wildfire preparedness, risk and prevention.
- Help vulnerable populations address wildfire and evacuation preparedness.

II. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

- Periodically posted community guidelines and recommendations for improving defensible space, structural hardening, and wildfire safety on the Community Bulletin Board, in the Palomar Mountain post office
- Made fuel reduction and structural hardening guideline flyers available at community events such as Pancake Breakfasts and annual Hoedown.
- Held monthly hybrid PMFSC meetings including in-person reporting from relevant agencies and community organizations.
- Participated in other monthly community meetings such as the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) and Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association meetings.
- Attended bimonthly FSCSDC meetings.
- Created PMFSC website.
- Provided yearly summaries of PMFSC activities in the Annual PMPO Newsletter

- distributed to over 450 Palomar Mountain community members (Vols 28-36).
- Organized, sponsored or participated in community Workshops: WUI (2019, 2025), Community Fire Safety meeting (2021), GSOB (2022), Last Chance Survival Simulation (2024), Dead and Dying Trees (2024).
- Created educational slide show describing PMFSC mission and activities for community meetings (2021).
- Applied for and received SDG&E and San Diego Regional Fire Foundation grants to support community education (2017, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024).
- Created evacuation maps and fire safety information to post in vacation rentals.
- Created artwork and information regarding native tree species to include with annual funding request flyer.
- Publicized and encouraged residents to participate in the current RCD “Palomar Mountain Community Defense and Hazardous Tree” grant program (2024-2025).
- Created and distributed a FIREWISE defensible space risk assessment survey via EDDM post, email, and community events.

- Develop a community-wide contact list to improve information outreach.
- Disseminate information via up-to-date PMFSC website, mailings, and online and physical postings.
- Continue to hold hybrid (in-person and on-line) PMFSC meetings monthly including in-person reporting from relevant agencies and community organizations.
- Participate regularly in other Palomar community meetings (e.g., PMCFA, PMPO) and events to facilitate collaboration.
- Sponsor and encourage participation in workshops (e.g. WUI) that educate community members in fuels reduction, defensible space, evacuation routes, structural hardening, and other fire preparedness and mitigation procedures.
- Develop and maintain a library at the Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) with reference materials for fire safety and preparedness.
- Identify and disseminate resources to assist vulnerable populations address fire safety and preparedness.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Educate the community about Genasys Protect and other websites, apps, and electronic resources fire and evacuations warnings and alerts.
- Sponsor and promote workshops addressing early evacuation, situational assessment, and sheltering in place.
- Provide education on defensible space, structural hardening, and fuel reduction through workshops and community outreach.
- Join Firewise by obtaining baseline risk assessment survey and developing an action plan to reduce wildfire risk in the Palomar community.



Last Chance Survival Simulation Workshop

04

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.

Most homes on Palomar Mountain evolved from legacy vacation cabins, with or without proper permitting and building standards, making current structural hardening compliance more difficult and expensive. The mountain also hosts isolated estates, sprawling ranches, and visitor facilities accessed by lengthy driveways or private roads through wooded areas, making the hardening of these individual structures essential.

I. PRIORITIES

- Educate homeowners on the importance of structural hardening materials and opportunities, their benefits, and resources available.
- Encourage the retrofitting of habitable structures to improve structure hardening.
- Become a Firewise community.
- Assist elderly or other vulnerable populations in identifying resources for structural hardening.

II. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

- Distributed 240 postcards via EDDM and paper surveys at community meetings to assess baseline structural hardening status of homes in the Palomar Community for Firewise application (2025).
- Attended multiple CA Fire Safe Virtual Expo Series webinars describing fire resistant materials and approved vendors (2025).

- Posted flyers on structural hardening on community bulletin Board and distributed flyers at community meetings and events.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Distribute structural hardening educational material on PMFSC website, community bulletin boards, newsletters, and at community meetings and events.
- Sponsor structural hardening workshops on appropriate materials and installation.
- Complete the structural hardening survey and develop structural hardening action plan for Firewise USA qualification.
- Provide list of sources and vendors for structural hardening materials (e.g., ember resistant screens).
- Identify grant and funding sources to assist homeowners with structural hardening.

05

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.

Like Palomar Mountain community members, homes and other structures are heterogeneous and individualistic. Many legacy cabins are located on tiny adjacent parcels with uncertain property boundaries, further increasing the challenges of creating and maintaining defensible space.

I. PRIORITIES

- Educate and assist individual homeowners in using zone systems and understanding defensible space zone compliance.
 - Provide opportunities for community chipping to improve defensible space.
 - Provide opportunities to dispose of combustible debris from defensible space.
 - Facilitate dead and dying tree removal from defensible space.
 - Improve vehicular and equipment access to allow defensible space improvements around habitable structures.
 - Educate community regarding the planting, and maintenance of environmentally appropriate native, fire-resistant vegetation.
- 21 days funded by San Diego Regional Fire Foundation between 2022-25.
 - 28 days funded by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program during 2018, 2020, and 2022.
 - 2 days funded by PMFSC during 2023 and 2024.
- Provided 42 monthly no-cost, community roll-off dumpster weekends to remove combustible debris from defensible space zones. Funded by:
 - 14 weekends between 2022-24 through San Diego Regional Fire Foundation.
 - 23 weekends in 2018, 2020, and 2022 through Neighborhood Reinvestment Program.
 - 5 weekends between 2022-2025 through PMFCA, PMPO, and PMFSC.

II. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

- Posted defensible space flyers on community bulletin Board and distributed flyers at community meetings and events.
- Provided 51 no-cost, community on-site chipping days, to remove defensible space trees and vegetation.

- Attended multiple CA Fire Safe Virtual Expo Series webinars describing defensible space protection and approved vendors (2025).
- Initiated an online, postal (mailed to 240 PO Boxes) and paper survey at community meetings to assess baseline defensible space status of homes in the Palomar Community for Firewise application action plan (2025).
- Publicized the need to complete Temporary Entry Permits for identification and removal of current RCD “Palomar Mountain Community Defense and Hazardous Tree Removal” in defensible space (2024-2025).

- Encourage homeowners to participate in defensible space assessment programs.
- Work with Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County to promote the “Palomar Mountain Community Defense and Hazardous Tree Removal” grant to the entire Palomar Mountain Community.
- Work with community to eliminate obstacles that prevent equipment access for brush clearing and chipping.
- Create a demonstration fire-resistant community garden.
- Identify products that increase vegetation fire resistance.
- Contribute information and references about fire-resistant plants to the community library.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Sponsor workshops and provide handouts and online guidance about defensible space zones.
- Continue to provide and sponsor on-site, community chipping days.
- Host FSCSDC centralized chipping day
- Continue to provide monthly dumpsters to remove combustible debris and vegetation from defensible space.
- Complete the defensible space survey and develop a defensible space action plan for Firewise USA qualification.

PMFSC Clean Up Event



PMFSC Chipping Pile



06

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.

I. PRIORITIES

- Clear brush and trees along unimproved, privately maintained roads and easements.
- Remove dead and dying trees.
- Coordinate with other agencies to mitigate the impacts to public and private land from drought, invasive insects (e.g GSOB), and other hazards that endanger chaparral and forest lands.
- Promote fuel reduction on private land through continuing education of new and existing property owners.
- Create fuel breaks to protect the Palomar Mountain community.

II. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

- **Completed – CCI Fire Protection Grant (#5GG1911312):** Between 2019-2023, PMFSC completed a roadside fuel reduction, brush and tree clearing project along multiple narrow, unimproved residential access roads to allow safe emergency ingress and egress in the most populated residential areas on Palomar Mountain (i.e. Birch Hill & Crestline). This was a \$169,520 grant award completed in a four-year period. To reduce roadside fuel, 18 unimproved dirt roads were treated (4.8 miles/8.3 acres), serving 121 individual parcels in the Crestline and Birch Hill areas. Clearing was completed on 5-10 feet on either side of each road and 23 large

trees, 45 medium trees, and 90 small sized trees were removed.

- **In Progress - CCI Fire Protection Grant (#5GG22153):** Beginning in 2023, with an estimated end date of 2027, PMFSC is completing roadside fuel reduction, brush and tree clearing along multiple narrow, unimproved residential access roads to allow safe emergency ingress and egress in the residential areas on the west side of Palomar Mountain (e.g., Bailey Meadow). This grant award is \$149,700.
- In 2022, PMFSC partnered with the RCDGSDC to provide education about the spread, containment, management, and treatment of the Gold spotted oak borer beetle (GSOB) and other invasive beetles.
- In 2017 and 2018, PMFSC held chainsaw training workshops in conjunction with USFS to educate homeowners in use, maintenance, and repair of chainsaws.
- Coordinate fuel reduction and roadside brush management in collaboration with San Diego County Fire Protection District, FSCSDC/RCD, CAL FIRE, USFS, SDG&E and San Diego County government.
- Continue and maintain roadside brush and tree clearing along privately maintained residential roads.
- Promote and enable fuel reduction on private land.

- Continue to educate the Palomar Mountain community about containment and treatment of GSOB and other invasive beetles.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Work with other agencies to extend removal of dead and dying trees beyond defensible space zones throughout the entire Palomar Mountain community.
- Collaborate with other agencies to create fuel breaks to protect the Palomar Mountain community.



07

Evacuation Planning

Identifying key corridors in and out of a community – as well as temporary 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 **Palomar Mountain Community**'s key ingress and egress, as well as designated evacuation corridors, Temporary Refuge Areas, completed projects, priorities and future projects.

I. OVERVIEW OF INGRESS AND EGRESS

The very limited options for safe evacuation routes from Palomar Mountain make prior planning and training essential. There are only two evacuation routes, originating together at the Summit junction of S6 (South Grade Rd) and S7 (East Grade Rd), both of which lead down to Route 76 at the southern base of the mountain. Evacuation routes are easily blocked by trees, rocks, accidents, disabled motor vehicles and other road hazards.

Reaching the Summit evacuation routes via lengthy driveways and private, unimproved, dirt residential roads through the forest is a problem.

Palomar Mountain residents and visitors in the State Park Road, Bailey Meadows, Crestline, Birch Hill and Observation Point areas have only a single primary escape route leading to the Summit where access to both S6 and S7 can be blocked by fire or road hazards.

The thousands of visitors to the Observatory, Palomar Christian Conference Center, State and County Parks, campgrounds and vacation rentals are usually unfamiliar with navigating Palomar roads and possible evacuation routes and may not have available on-site transportation.

II. DESIGNATED EVACUATION CORRIDORS

Palomar Mountain

PRIMARY East Grade Road (S7)

ALTERNATE South Grade Road (S6)

CONTINGENCY State Park Road to Nate Harrison Grade

EMERGENCY None

III. TEMPORARY REFUGE AREAS

No designated Temporary Refuge Areas, situational Temporary Refuge Areas only.

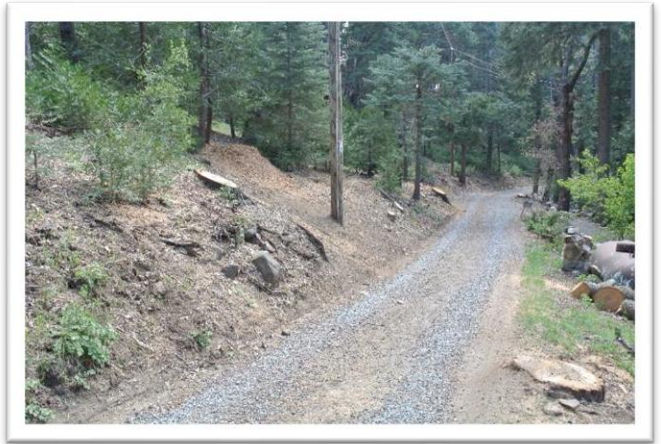
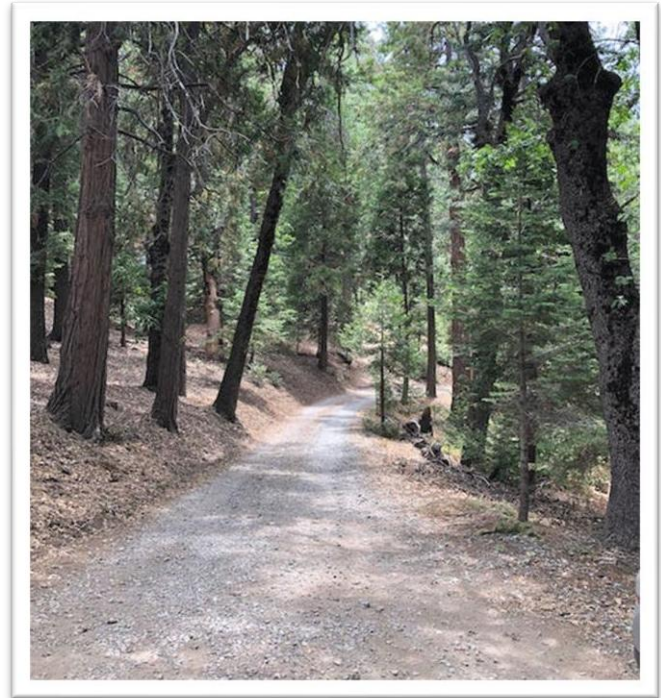
IV. PRIORITIES

- Promote the use of electronic resources (e.g. Genasys Protect) for fire and evacuation warnings and alerts.
- Emphasize the importance of advance planning and preparation for early evacuation.
- Assure adequate brush and tree clearance along privately maintained residential roads for emergency ingress and egress.
- Establish a contingency evacuation route for Crestline/Birch Hill residents to access primary evacuation route (East Grade Road, S7).

- Provide up-to-date information and maps for evacuation.
- Monitor road, dwelling, and evacuation route signage to enable ingress and egress during emergencies.
- Remove physical obstructions along evacuation routes.
- Provide vulnerable populations with available evacuation resources.

V. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

- **Completed – CCI Fire Protection Grant (#5GG1911312):** Between 2019-2023, PMFSC completed a roadside fuel reduction, brush and tree clearing project along multiple narrow, unimproved residential access roads to allow safe emergency ingress and egress in the most populated residential areas on Palomar Mountain (i.e. Birch Hill & Crestline). This was a \$169,520 grant award completed in a four year period. To reduce roadside fuel, 18 unimproved dirt roads were treated (4.8 miles/8.3 acres), serving 121 individual parcels in the Crestline and Birch Hill areas. Clearing was completed on 5-10 feet on either side of each road and 23 large trees, 45 medium trees, and 90 small sized trees were removed.
- **In Progress - CCI Fire Protection Grant (#5GG22153):** Beginning in 2023, with an estimated end date of 2027, PMFSC is completing roadside fuel reduction, brush and tree clearing along multiple narrow, unimproved residential access roads to allow safe emergency ingress and egress in the residential areas on the west side of Palomar Mountain (e.g., Bailey Meadow). This grant award is for \$149,700.
- Provided aluminum emergency road signage (N=8) and weighted road barricades with LED lighting (N=8) for CERT to use during emergencies.
- Created and distributed evacuation maps (2020).
- Applied for and received a Neighborhood Reinvestment Program grant to provide evacuation road barricades and signs for CERT (2022).



Before + After Fuels Treatment on Birch Hill Rd

- PMFSC has hosted many workshops on evacuation readiness; in 2019 and 2022, we collaborated on the WUI Workshop, and in 2024, the Last Chance Survival Workshop, with partners such as the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, Bureau of Land Management, and San Diego County Fire Protection District/CAL FIRE.
- Created and provided an evacuation map for vacation rentals.

VI. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Educate the community about Genasys Protect and other websites, apps and electronic resources for fire and evacuations warnings and alerts.
- Sponsor, host, and promote workshops addressing the necessity of early evacuation, situational assessment, and sheltering in place.
- Maintain brush and tree clearance along unimproved, privately maintained public and private residential roads for emergency ingress and egress in Birch Hill and Crestline areas.
- Extend brush and tree clearance along unimproved, privately maintained public and private residential roads for emergency ingress and egress to remaining community areas.
- Evaluate potential contingency routes for Crestline/Birch Hill evacuation to East Grade Road (S7).
- Update, post, and distribute detailed community road maps showing evacuation routes.
- Coordinate with community organizations to maintain signage along evacuation routes.
- Coordinate with CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire CERT, FSCSDC, San Diego County Sheriff and other San Diego County agencies for planning and implementation of evacuation.
- Collaborate with community organizations to remove physical obstructions, such as rocks and trees, or rerouting roads to allow emergency vehicle access and emergency egress on evacuation routes.
- Identify and educate vulnerable populations about available programs related to wildfire preparation and safety such as SDGE’s medical baseline program for public safety power shutoffs.

PMFSC Evacuation Plan



08

Other Mitigation & Preparedness

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.

I. PRIORITIES

- Coordinate efforts to expand storage for and access to water on Palomar Mountain for fire emergencies.
- Obtain grant, donor, community organization funding to accomplish the goals of the CWPP
- Inform homeowners on the use, application, and removal of fire gel.
- Inform visitors regarding fire safety (e.g. campfire, fire pit use).
- Provide information for dealing with domestic animals in emergencies.

II. COMPLETED AND/OR ONGOING PROJECTS

- Through 2023-2025, we conducted annual PMFSC funding campaigns with informational flyers distributed to Palomar community
- List of grants received provided in Appendix.
- Provided 107 homes no-cost fire gel home kits by Neighborhood Reinvestment Program grants (2017, 2018, 2020, 2022).
- Held “hands-on” workshops demonstrating to homeowners how to use, apply, store, and remove fire gel (2022, 2024).

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Explore feasibility, funding, and setup of more water tanks (including helicopter dip tanks) to provide water for firefighting.
- Collaborate with CAL FIRE, PMCFA, mutual water companies, and CERT to assure a functional system of tracking and updating maps for water availability, home locations, and emergency access status.
- Provide signs directing firefighters to specific water sources.
- Continue annual fundraising drive to support PMFSC fire preparedness and fuel reduction activities.
- Continue community distribution of no-cost fire gel for structural fire protection (pending grant funding).
- Sponsor interactive workshops on the use, application, and removal of fire gel.
- Provide vacation rentals with fire safety information.
- Identify resources for protection, evacuation, and rescue of pets and large animals during fire emergencies.


09

Signatures

This plan must be approved by the following key parties: the local author (examples include Fire Safe Council President, Firewise Community, Tribal National, HOA, etc.), the chief of the primary responding fire agency, the CAL FIRE Unit Chief, and chair of the CWPP review committee. This section includes these signoffs.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as developed for Palomar Mountain:

- 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.

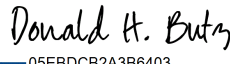
DocuSigned by:

 X _____
 President of the
 Fire Safe Council Submitting this CWPP

DocuSigned by:


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

San Diego County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 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.

Signed by:

 X _____
05EBDCB2A3B6403
 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.

DocuSigned by:

 X _____
09A64432E235429...
 Tony Mecham, Unit Chief
 CAL FIRE San Diego Unit

10

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 Palomar Mountain by the CWPP Writing Committee of the PMFSC (i.e. community representatives listed below) following communication with CAL FIRE Station 79, San Diego County Fire Protection District, US Forest Service, and CERT at monthly Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council meetings, monthly Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department-DBA Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association (PMCFCA) meetings and quarterly Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) meetings.

Community Representatives

- Yvonne E. Vaucher, PMFSC and PMPO
- Elizabeth D. Getzoff, PMPO and PMFSC
- Michael E. Pique, PMCFCA, PMPO and PMFSC
- Miriam Munoz, PMFSC

Agency Representatives

- Yvonne E. Vaucher, President PMFSC
- Robert Carlyle, Chair PMCFCA
- Dean Kowalski, CAL FIRE Captain, Station 79
- Lafe Ball, former Chair PMPO
- Dana Barre, District Fuels Program Manager, USFS Cleveland NF-Palomar RD
- William Leininger, San Diego County CERT

Meetings Dates

- CWPP Writing Committee: 2/15/25, 2/21/25, 8/28/25, 9/3/25, 9/4/25, 9/5/25
- PMFSC monthly, 4th Saturday
- PMCFCA, monthly, 1st Saturday
- PMPO quarterly, Saturday

Websites

- PMFSC: www.palomarfiresafecouncil.org/minutes
- PMCFCA(PMVFD): www.palomar-fire.org/
- PMPO: <https://pmpoinfo.com/>

APPENDIX B.
MAPS

Figure 1 Area Communities Map

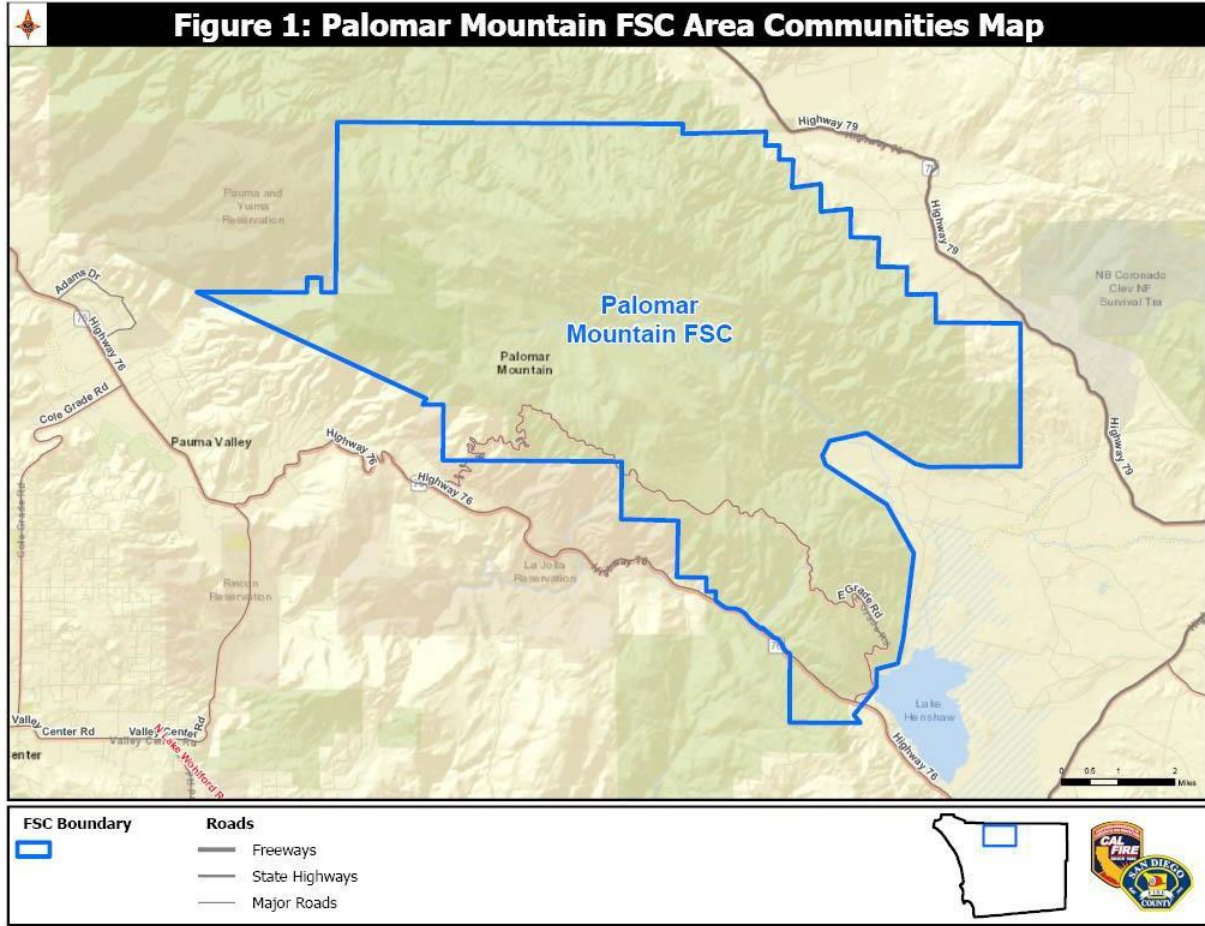


Figure 2 Fire Hazard Severity Map

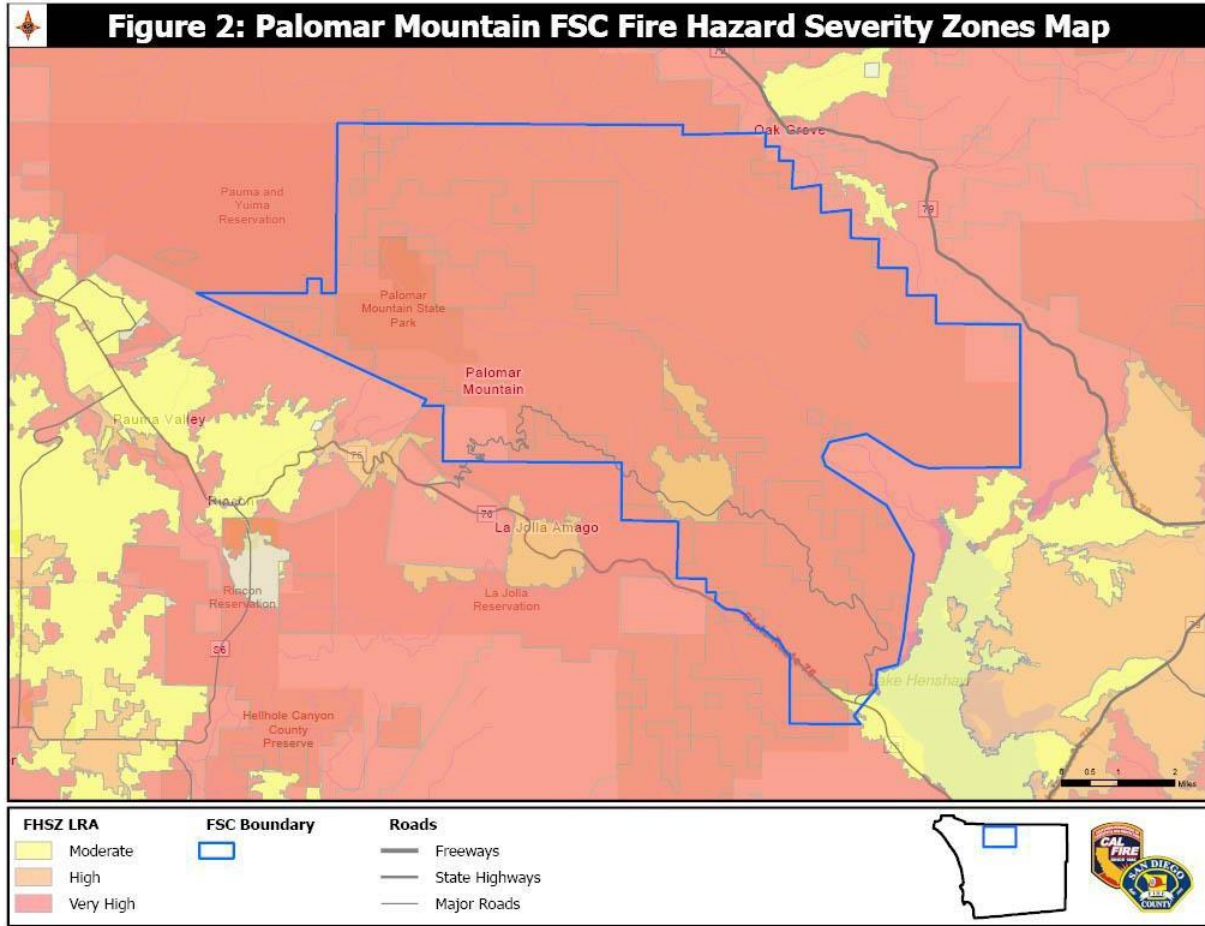


Figure 3 Fire History 1996-Present

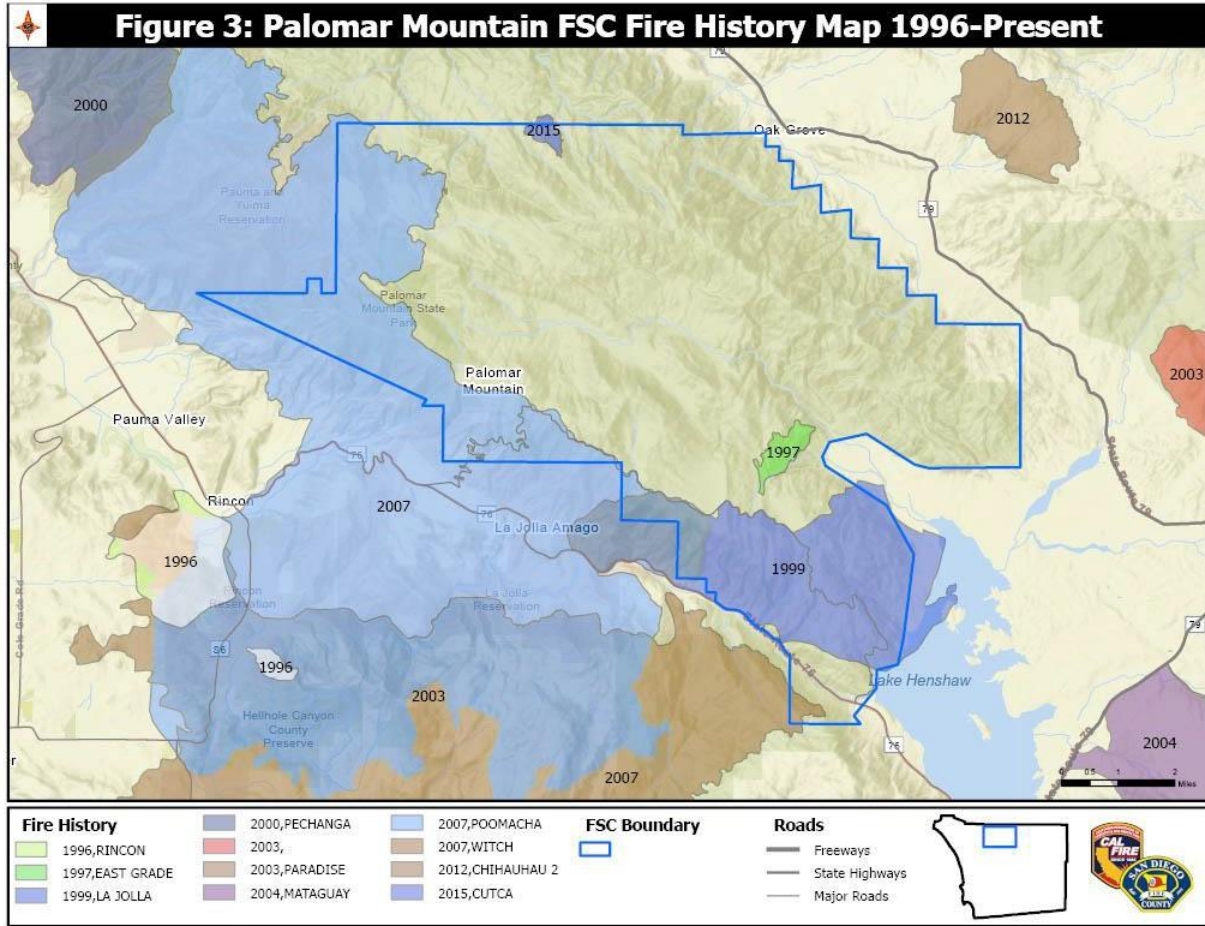


Figure 4 Evacuation Map

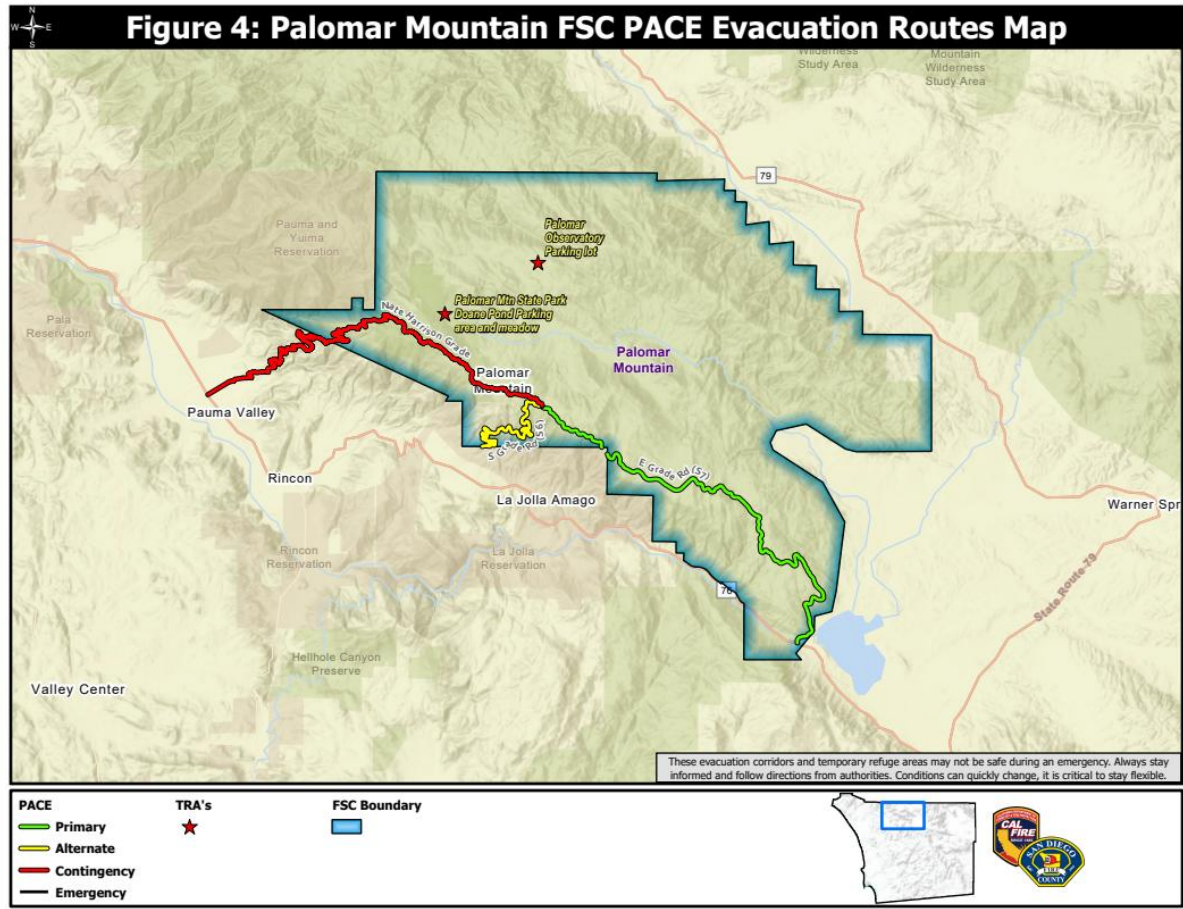
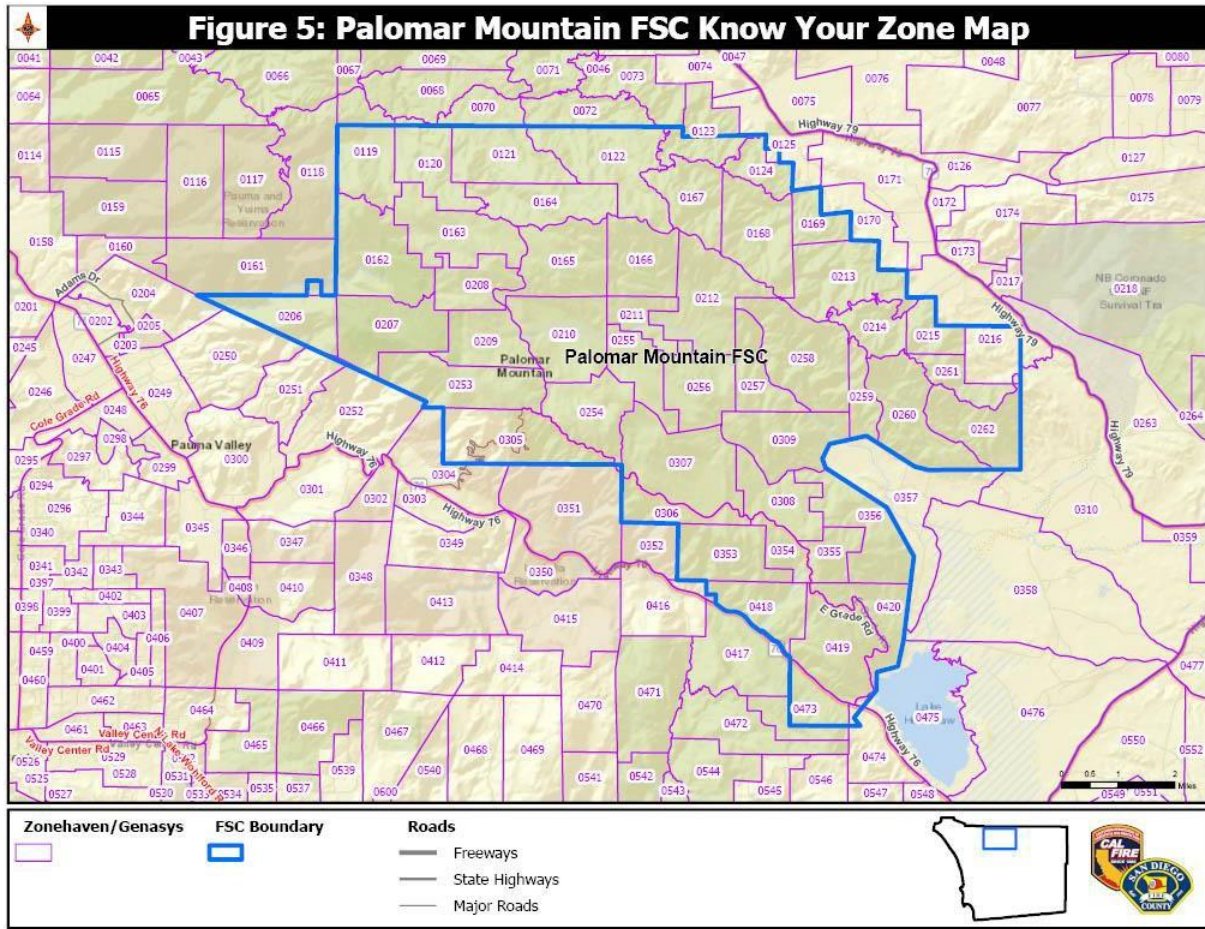


Figure 5 Know Your Zone Map



APPENDIX C.

PMFSC Grants Received

1. **SDG&E 2016** (\$2500): Community education projects/workshops
2. **SDG&E 2017** (\$2500): Community education projects/workshops
3. **SDG&E 2018** (\$2500): Community education projects/workshops
4. **Neighborhood Reinvestment Program 2017-18** (\$10,000): Fire gel, power washers
5. **SDG&E 2019** (\$2500): Community education, fuel reduction
6. **Neighborhood Reinvestment Program 2018** (\$48,328): Fuel reduction, fire gel
7. **SDG&E 2020**: (\$2500) Community education/fuel reduction.
8. **Neighborhood Reinvestment Program 2020** (\$25,000: Fuel reduction, fire gel
9. **SDRFF 2021** (\$2500): Defensible space fuel reduction, Board D&O/Liability insurance
10. **CCI 5GG191131** 2019-2022 (\$169,520): *“Palomar Mountain Emergency Access and Emergency Evacuation Project”* Roadside brush clearing/tree removal or emergency access/evacuation & critical infrastructure protection
11. **SDRFF SAFE 2022** (\$12,000): Wildfire Safety community education, defensible space improvement
12. **Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (2022)** \$48,827: Defensible space fuel reduction, wildfire risk reduction, evacuation safety
13. **SDRFF SAFE 2023** (\$10,000): Defensible space fuel reduction, Board D&O/Liability insurance
14. **SDRFF SAFE 2024** (\$12,000): Defensible space fuel reduction, Board D&O/Liability insurance
15. **CCI 5GG22153**: (\$149,700) 12/27/2023 - 03/15/2029: *“Palomar Mountain Emergency Access and Emergency Evacuation Project”* Roadside brush clearing/tree removal or emergency access/evacuation & critical infrastructure protection
16. **SDRFF SAFE 2025** (\$15,500) 6/1/25-4/15/26: Defensible space fuel reduction, Board D&O/Liability insurance