

Crest Community Wildfire Protection Plan

San Diego County, CA

January 4, 2006

Introduction

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by Crest Fire Safe Council with guidance and support from the County of San Diego, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the East County Fire Protection District. This CWPP supplements San Diego County, Department of Planning and Land Use documents referenced in Appendix A.

The process of developing a CWPP is to help our community clarify and refine its priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface. It can also lead our community members through valuable discussions regarding management options and implications for the surrounding watershed.

COLLABORATION: COMMUNITY/AGENCIES/FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the Crest CWPP are included in the following table. Their name, organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

CWPP Development Team:

Name	Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
Kandhy Franklin-Collins	Crest Fire Safe Council	Primary development of CWPP and decision-making, community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.
Bob Cooper	County of San Diego, Land Use and Environment Group	Primary development of CWPP and decision-making, community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods. Work with Crest Fire Safe Council to establish South Lane Park as the secondary evacuation site for residents of Crest and to add a sea container to house CFSC supplies

John Wieczjorek	County of San Diego, Office of Emergency Services	Provides input and expertise on planning and hazard mitigation, and to establish an evacuation plan for the Community of Crest, to work with Crest Fire Safe Council in establishing the utilization of Crest Elementary School as a command post as well as the County Park known as South Lane Park to be utilized as the Crest Fire Safe Council headquarters; local evacuation site and the gathering of large animals.
Kelly Zambro	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF)	Facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards. Provides input and expertise on forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
Robin Kinmont, Coordinator	San Diego County Fire Safe Council	Provides educational outreach and support for pre-wildfire disaster planning, defensible space, fuel reduction, and hazard assessment.
Terri Stewart/Jerre Stallcup- writer of management plan	California Department of Fish & Game	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts and a vegetation management plan.
Chief Darrel Jobes	East County Fire Protection District	Provides local information and expertise. This includes community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities to include the involvement of the Crest Elementary School, the three local churches, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.

Community Overview: Crest

The ridge top community of Crest includes Crest, La Cresta, and Suncrest. Perched atop a granite mountain, it is surrounded by El Cajon to the west, Lakeside to the north, Harbison

Canyon to the east, and the Dehesa Valley to the south. Steep slopes limit access to two main roads, La Cresta Road from the west and Mountain View Road to the east. Much of the mountain slopes are owned by the state and other government agencies and dedicated as permanent open space. Structural fire protection is provided by the East County Fire Protection District, while the responsibility for wildland fires rests with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Forester Creek drains the area to the west, Rios and Los Coches Creeks to the north, s, Harbison Canyon Creek receives stormwater from the eastern slopes, and runoff from the southern slopes reaches the Sweetwater River

Vegetation is coastal sage scrub on the drier slopes, with mixed chaparral on the northern aspects and in the steep canyons. Finger canyons intersect with the developed lands at the ridge top. 600 acres of avocados south of Rios Canyon provide a green fuelbreak to the northwest. The serpentine Valley View Truck Trail that connects northern Crest with Intestate 8 at Los Coches Road has been maintained by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a fuelbreak.

Crest has a history of relatively frequent fires along the slopes, especially in the Dehesa Valley and Valley View Truck Trail areas. Large fires burned the north and east slopes in the 1940's. The Laguna Fire (1970) destroyed many homes in Crest and adjacent Harbison Canyon when Santa Ana winds pushed fire from Laguna Mountain to El Cajon. History repeated itself in 2003 when the Cedar fire swept the north eastern slopes and destroyed or damaged over 280 homes and other buildings.

FIRE HISTORY:

Fire Name	Acres	Cause	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
	126	Miscellaneous	0	0	1920
	324	Miscellaneous	0	0	1925
	3159	Miscellaneous	0	0	1940
	3186	Miscellaneous	0	0	1947
VALLEY VIEW	2445	Unknown	8	6	1950
EAST SUNCREST	932	Unknown	11	11	1950
DEHESA	351	Unknown	7	20	1952
DEHESA #2	330	Unknown	8	28	1953
TUNNEL HILL	1298	Unknown	10	4	1953
SINGING HILLS	406	Unknown	8	22	1956
VALLEY VIEW #2	1205	Unknown	8	9	1958
	56	Miscellaneous	0	0	1963
	45	Miscellaneous	0	0	1963
SUNCREST	1434	Unknown	10	21	1965
HARBISON CANYON	381	Unknown	8	30	1967
LAGUNA	174162	Miscellaneous	9	29	1970
	107	Miscellaneous	0	0	1973
	83	Miscellaneous	0	0	1975
	265	Miscellaneous	0	0	1978
	132	Miscellaneous	0	0	1979
DEHESA	106	Miscellaneous	8	3	1981
DEHESA #5	71	Unknown	8	19	1982

DEHESA #6	124	Arson	9	21	1982
EUCLID	401	Equipment Use	7	13	1983
DEHESA #7	59	Miscellaneous	8	2	1983
HARBISON	42	Miscellaneous	10	11	1983
DEHESA	223	Miscellaneous	5	29	1984
FLINN	605	Playing with Fire	6	27	1986
PARK #2	106	Arson	7	6	1987
DEHESA #2	61	Miscellaneous	8	20	1987
DUNBAR	197	Arson	6	26	1990
SLOANE	107	Unknown	10	12	1999
DEHESA	52	Unknown	6	30	2003
DUNBAR	43	Unknown	8	29	2003
CEDAR	270865	Miscellaneous	10	25	2003

Identification of Values at Risk

Using technology, forensic fire science of the 2003 Cedar fire, the fire history of the 1970 Laguna Fire, the and local expertise, the CREST Fire Safe Council supported by the County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use has developed a series of maps depicting the site and situation of the CREST Community (Appendix B). A narrative of the community and adjacent landscapes of interest was also prepared. The maps will act as a visual aid from which community members can assess and make recommendations. The maps include the following:

1. Inhabited areas and values at potential risk to wildland fire.
2. Fire threat designated by California Department of Forestry and East County Fire Protection District.
3. A preliminary designation of the community's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone
4. USGS topographic quad map of the community.

Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

Initial response to all structural fire, medical and associated emergencies is the responsibility of the East County Fire Protection District. The East County Fire Protection District maintains Auto Aid Agreements with the surrounding fire agencies of Alpine, Lakeside, Santee, El Cajon, San Miguel, Lemon Grove, La Mesa, Sequan Indian Reservation, CDF, and US Forest Service. The district is also a signatory to the San Diego County Mutual Aid Agreement and the State of California Mutual Aid Agreement. Ordering any resources under this plan can be made by the unified command from CDF Incident Commander. All mutual aid agreements, training, equipment, and response are the responsibility of the local fire department and the agencies listed above.

STRUCTURE IGNITIBILITY

1. In cooperation with the County of San Diego, and the East County Fire Protection District, Crest Fire Safe Council supports and promotes Firewise activities. Crest Fire

Safe Council supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitibility through meeting County of San Diego Building and Fire Code requirements. See definition of these methods of education and activities in Appendix C.

The partnership that exists between the listed organizations (federal, state, local, and citizens) allows the community of Crest to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels that could ignite residences and commercial facilities during Santa Ana wind fire conditions. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has already declared removal of dead, dying, and diseased trees as an "exigency" task. Maintaining properties with the appropriate defensible space is a key factor to protecting lives and property in the Crest community (*Fire Defensible Space and You...*, 2005).

HAZARD REDUCTION PRIORITIES

1. South Lane County Park

1. Conduct brush management projects whereby fuel loads are reduced along selected ingress/egress routes, and homes in the community.
 - a. The roads surrounding South Lane Park as well as Suncrest, Albatross, & Crest Dr. are included in this first important project.
 - b. The Crest Fire Safe Council to work with community members, county entities, the school and churches to establish utilities, construct restrooms, facilitate temporary showers, and purchase a sea container which will act as the Crest Fire Safe Council building headquarters housing emergency equipment.
2. Map all roads, road markers, and water sources in the communities.
3. Measures to reduce structural ignitability:
 - a. Weed abatement inspections are conducted with enforced abatements are completed by the County of San Diego and the East County Fire Protection District.
 - b. Construction enhancements through San Diego County Building and Fire Code requirements.
 - c. Class A re-roofing enhancements through San Diego County Building and Fire Code requirements, residential sprinkler systems, and other fire protection equipment which would aim at further protecting Crest residents.
 - d. Education and information seminars completed on a regular basis through the Crest Sun newsletter, the Crest Community web site, the Crest Elementary School's Little Coyote newsletter, the Crest Community Association, the church's newsletters, the newsletter for the Crest Coordinating Committee for Fire Relief, and monthly town meetings. All of the mentioned above, are for information dissemination on fuel reduction and communication with the community for protection of life and structures.

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2. Brush Abatement for vacant land surrounding the community of Crest

Property owners along Crest Drive, Highline Truck Trail, Canyon Rim Road, Sunrise Mountain Road, as well as properties on the North side of the Crest Community abutting the Oakridge Park Preserve will be offered weed and brush abatement opportunities around their properties all following within the guidelines established by San Diego County offices of planning and land use and environmental services.

3. Water line upgrades for the community of Crest

Crest Fire Safe Council, Crest Community Association of residents, and the Crest Coordinating Committee for Fire Relief will work with Padre Water Dam District in the implementation of their upgraded water line plan for the community of Crest. CFSC will assist in the distribution of information of the projects, time schedules, and conduct community meetings to inform the residents.

4. Information dissemination to residents at risk of structure loss

1. Crest Fires Safe Council will gather and disseminate information to the community.
2. Classes will be offered in First-Aid, protections of structures, plants

Current/Planned Projects

1. East County Fire Protection District now has in place the Vegetation Management Plan as outlined in the MOA between the Fire Districts, California Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife.
2. The Crest community and Crest Fire Safe Council are working with the Amateur Ham Radio Operators of El Cajon in support of re-establishing a new communications tower at the Crest water tanks,(property owned by Padre Dam Water District) at the end of Alta Lane, and to work in coordination with Crest Fire Safe Council for delivery of emergency information and practice drills.
3. The County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use has funding and is currently collecting water source, road, and road marker data and plans to have these data completed and mapped in the near future.
4. The Crest Community and East County Fire Protection District are working with the Crest Community Association, Crest Coordinating Committee for Fire Relief, and Crest Kiwanis to construct a pole to house a siren at the Crest community clubhouse. The community supports the activation of the siren to be done by the Crest Fire Safe Council and the members of the Crest CERT team.
5. Research is on going, with a sector of Crest willing to participate in a phone tree method of communication. Our goal is to submit a survey to the community asking their willingness to participate a community phone tree. Crest Fire Safe Council will

assume the responsibility of collecting information, and work with the company which will initiate the program.

6. Collecting and disseminating information to large vacant land owners regarding the use of goats for habitat management on the fringes of the community of Crest.
7. Crest Fire safe Council is working with the Crest Elementary School and the East County Fire Protection District to educate through Fire Safe activities, sponsor Family Health and Science nights, and conduct fire information assemblies.
8. Crest Fire Safe Council will work with Sue Geller, principal and the Crest School PTA to develop up-to-date evacuation backpacks, to monitor fire drills conducted at the school, and to follow through with a reverse call system owned and operated by the Cajon Valley School District, to contact each student's home to inform them of the drill, and that it might be a constructive discussion as to what to do in case of fire in their home.
9. Ongoing research into the establishment of a 501(c)3 designation for Crest Safe Council.

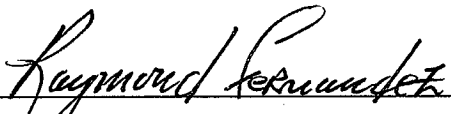
The Community Wildfire Protection Plan developed for Crest:

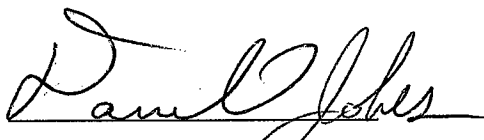
- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and land management agencies in the vicinity of Crest have been consulted.
- This plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect Crest.
- This plan recommends measures to reduce ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

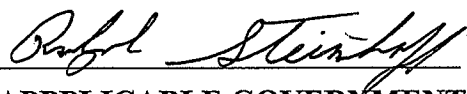
The following entities attest that the standards listed above are proposed to be met and mutually agree with the content of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

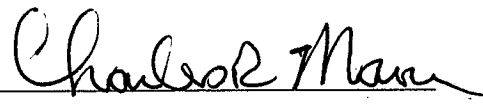
UNINCORPORATED MUNICIPALITY

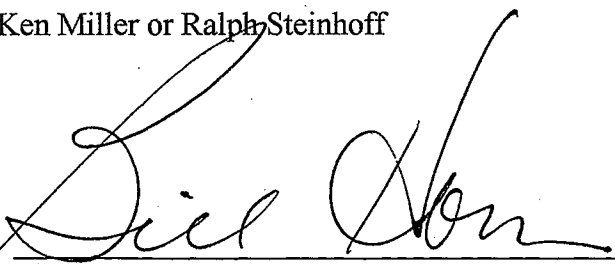
(Mandatory Signature Page)


APPLICABLE GOVERNMENT
San Diego County Land Use and
Environmental Group (SD LUEG)
Ray Fernandez or Bob Copper


LOCAL FIRE
East County Fire Protection District
Chief Darrell Jobs

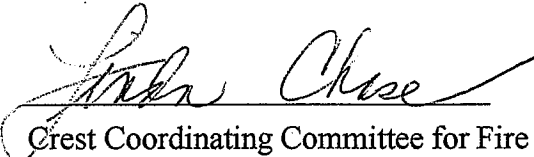

APPLICABLE GOVERNMENT
San Diego County Fire Service Coordinator
Ken Miller or Ralph Steinhoff

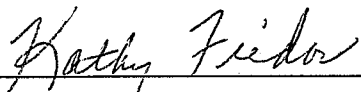

STATE AGENCY
California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection
Chief Charles Maner

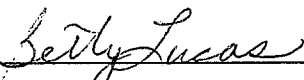

County of San Diego


Additional Signatures from collaborators:

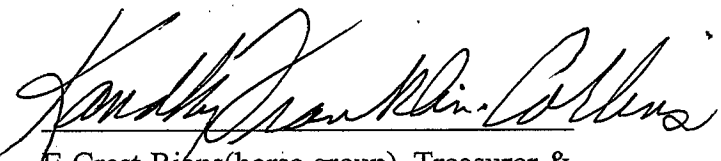

Crest Community Association
President Debbie Goettche


Crest Coordinating Committee for Fire Relief
Linda Chase


County of San Diego, Crest Library
Kathy Fiedor/ Betty Lucas


Editor of the Crest Sun Newsletter
Betty Lucas


President of Crest Kiwanis
Andy Knudson


E-Crest-Rians(horse group), Treasurer &
Crest Fire Safe Council, Facilitator
Kandy Franklin-Collins

Appendix A

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

1. County of San Diego Building Code (2004)
2. County of San Diego Fire Code (2004)
3. County of San Diego Combustible Vegetation and Flammable Material Ordinance (2004)
4. County of San Diego, OES *Hazard Mitigation Plan* (2004)
5. County of San Diego, *Fire, Defensible Space and You...* (2005)
6. County of San Diego, *Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program Overview* (2005)
7. <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov> for additional maps, data, and documents
8. <http://www.cafirealliance.org> California Fire Alliance website for additional documents.
9. <http://wildfire.cr.usgs.gov/fireplanning> California Fire Alliance mapping tool for additional planning and documents.

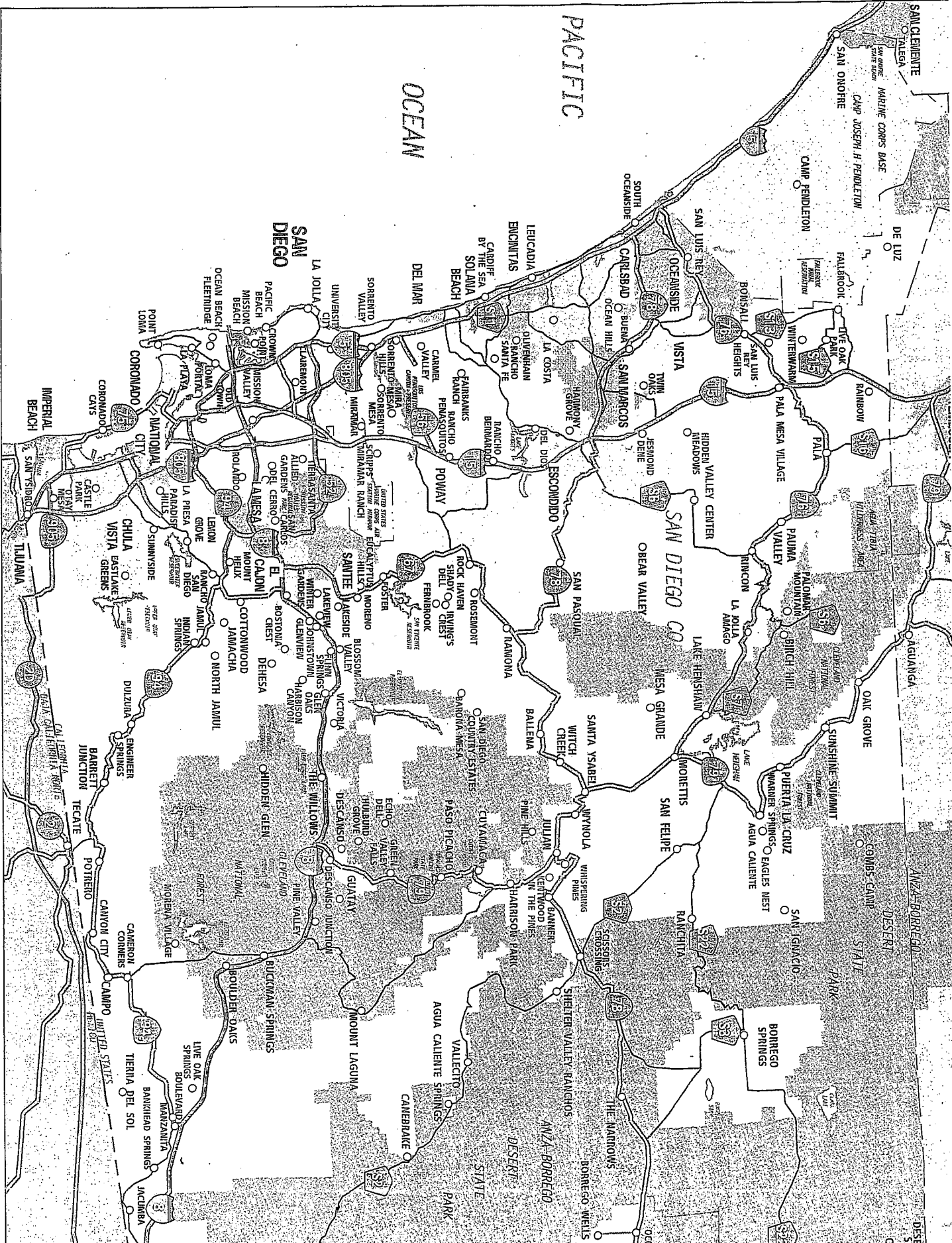
Appendix B

Figure 1: *Crest Street Map*

Figure 2: *Communities Map*
Shows the main population centers.

Figure 3: *Map of Sheriff's coverage areas in emergencies.*

Figure 4: *USGS Topographic Map- noting a siren coverage area*

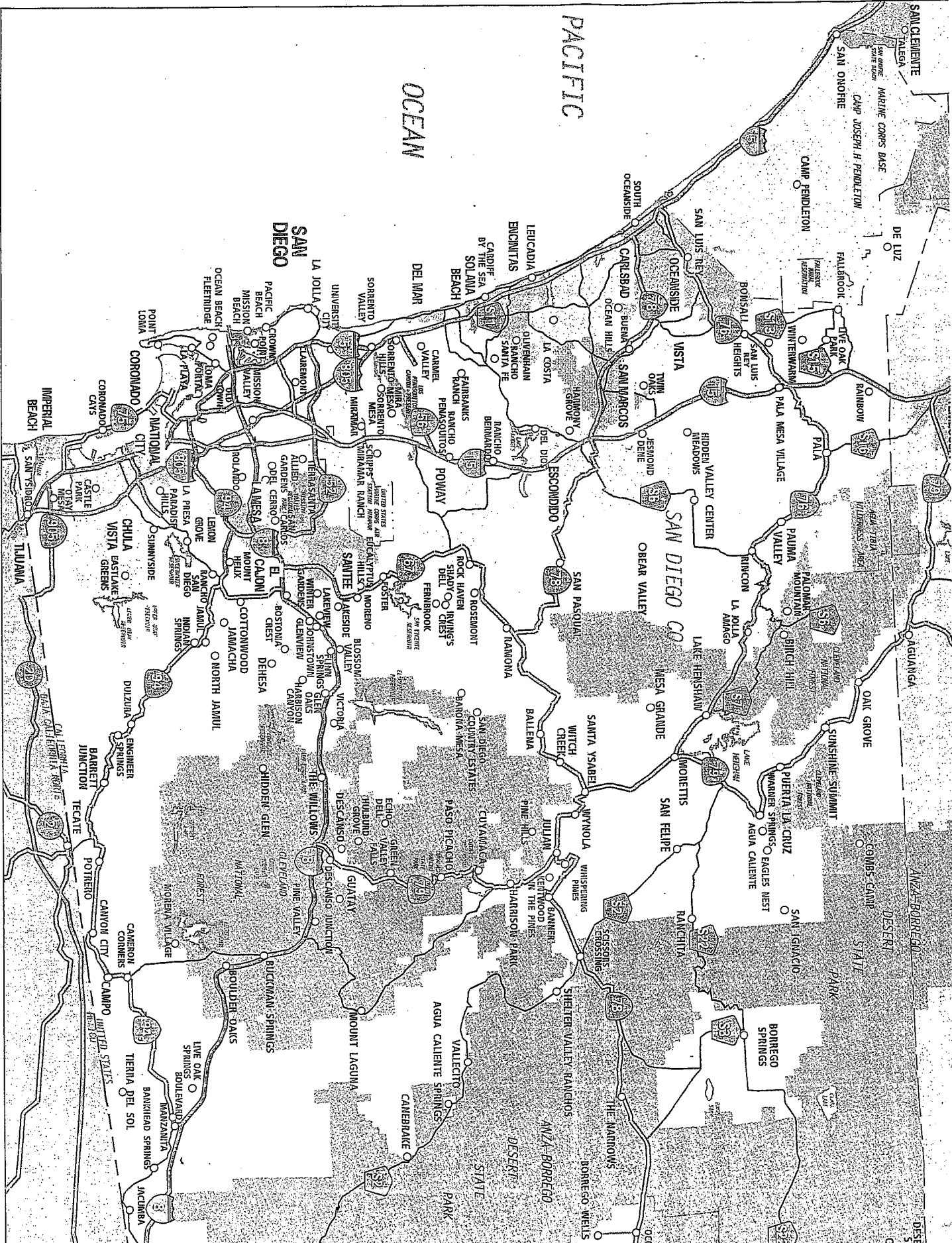


PACIFIC

OCEAN

SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO CO



ANZA-BORREGO

DESERT STATE PARK

CONIBS-CAMP

SAN IGNACIO

AGUA CALIENTE

WANNERS SPRINGS

PUERTA LA CRUZ

SUNSHINE-SUMMIT

LAKE HENSLEY

LAKE ANILLO

LAKE MICHIGAN

LAKE MEAD

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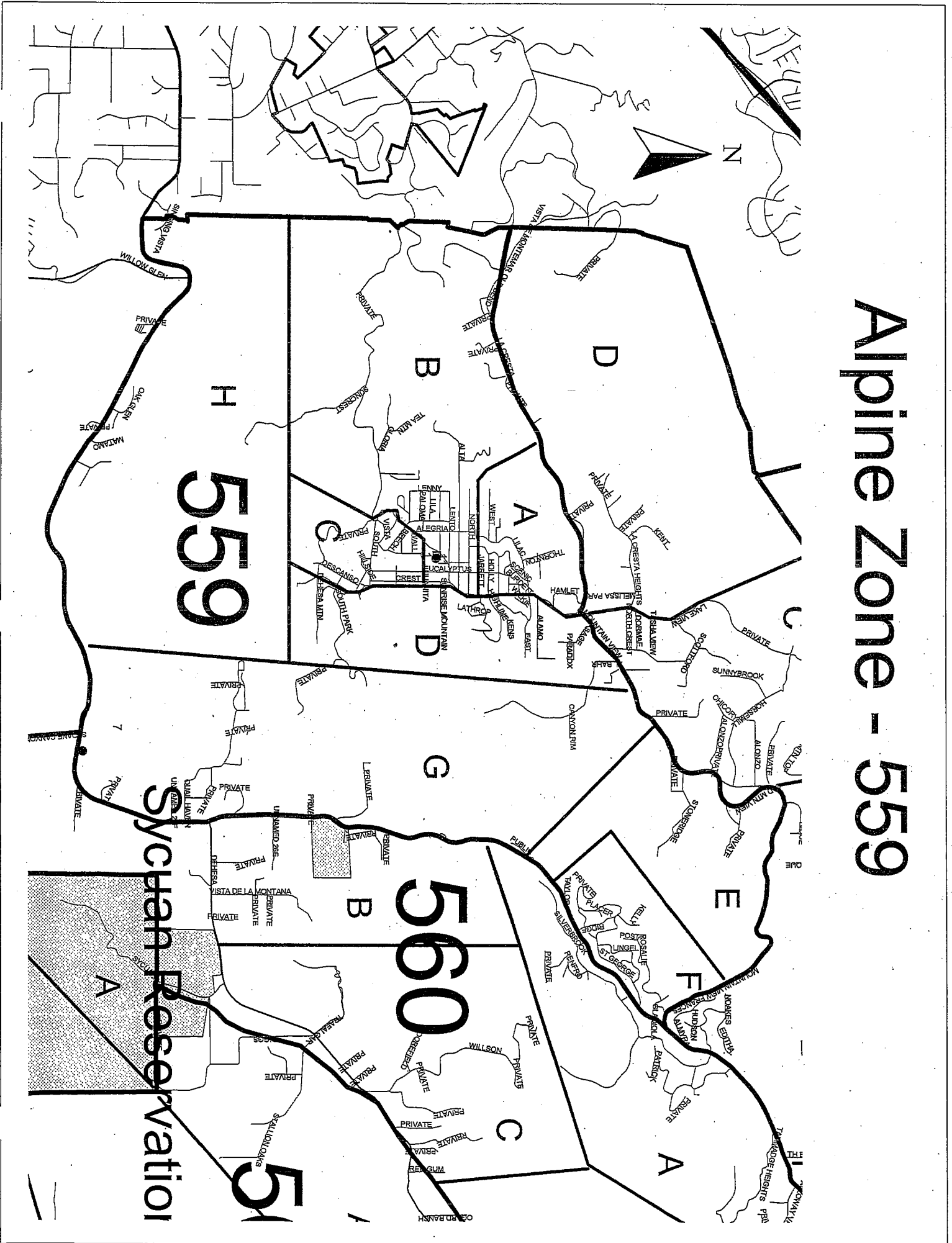
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Alpine Zone - 559

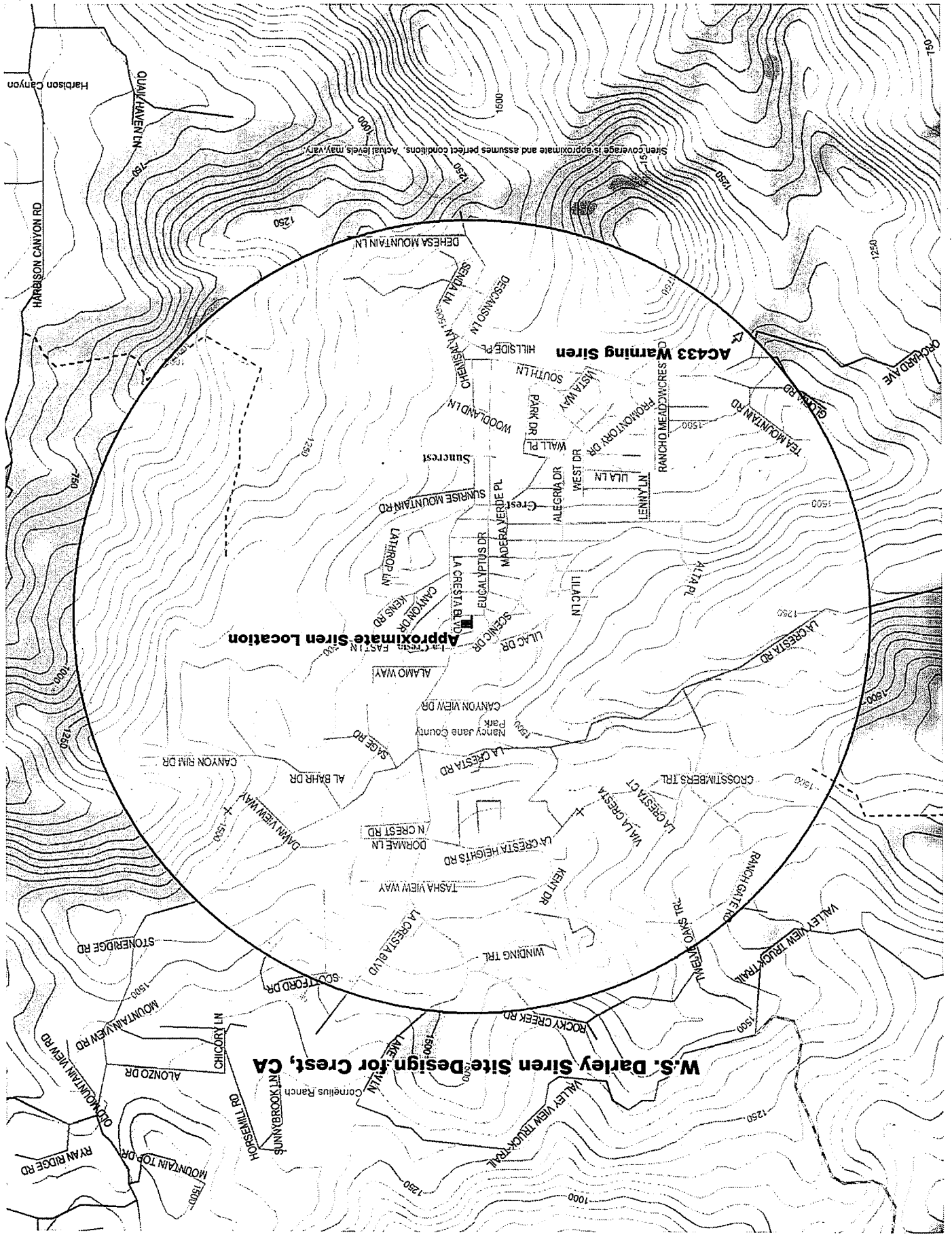


Sycuan Reservation

559

560

561



W.S. Darley Siren Site Design for Crest, CA

Approximate Siren Location

AC433 Warning Siren

Appendix C

- a. Education and information seminars are presented on a regular basis through the Crest Sun newsletter, the Crest Community web site, the Crest Elementary School, town hall meetings. Information for these meetings is from the Crest Fire safe council utilizing published information from fire entities, San Diego Fire Safe Council, County of San Diego Office of Emergency Services, and San Diego County Planning and Land Use.
- b. Information to be disseminated will utilize the Crest web site, newsletters mentioned above, and the reverse call method of Crest Elementary School.