San Diego County Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County

in partnership with the

San Diego County Fire Safe Council





San Diego County, CA

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1/4/06

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
Overview	1-2
Role of the RCD of Greater San Diego County/SD County FSC	3
Tables	4-7
COLLABORATION: COMMUNITY/AGENCIES/FIRE SAFE COUNCILS	8
-CWPP Development Team	8-9
Community Overview	10-11
Identification of Values at Risk	11
Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability	11-12
STRUCTURE IGNITIBILITY	12-13
FUEL REDUCTION PRIORITIES	
-CFSC Creation and Support	13
-CFSC Outreach and Education	13
-Current Programs	14
-Current / Planned Projects	14-15
-Future Programs	15-16
Signature Pages	17-18
Glossary of Terms	19-23
Appendix A—Documentation and References	24
Appendix B—Figures and Maps	25-30
Contact Information	31
	•
LIST OF TABLES	
Table 1. Local FSC's San Diego County-wide List	3
Table 2. Communities-At-Risk	4-6
LIST OF TARIES See Annondiv R	

San Diego County Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Introduction

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCDGSDC) in partnership with the San Diego County Fire Safe Council (SDCFSC) and with guidance and support from the County of San Diego, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the United States Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. This CWPP supplements San Diego County, Department of Planning and Land Use documents referenced in Appendix A.

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

Overview

It is the vision of the RCD/SDCFSC that the SDCFSC programs will provide support services for all of the high-risk communities within San Diego County (see Table 2, Communities-At-Risk), including creation of and ongoing assistance to community-based fire safe councils and implementation of a variety of much-needed fuel reduction projects. The primary goals of these programs are to help protect life and property. All applicable projects are created in conformation with the National Fire Plan, the California Fire Plan, and/or the Healthy Forests Reforestation Act of 2003 with guidance and cooperation from federal and state fire jurisdictions. The county-wide jurisdiction is conducted when appropriate in cooperation with the Mission RCD and the Upper San Luis Rey RCD.

The RCD/SDCFSC Community Wildfire Protection Plan encompasses current and proposed community-based fire safe council projects within the entire boundary of San Diego County. The SDCFSC assists local community FSC's by encouraging community residents to join together to create a safer environment from wildfire. All support services and program implentation are achieved by the RCD/FSC through grant funding applied for and obtained by the RCD/FSC with areas of focus during a given year or grant period as defined by the grantor funding agency area of concentration.

The primary goals of support for CFSCs and fuel reduction are achieved by the RCD/FSC by means of the following, as funded:

- 1) Identifying and encouraging local community residents/leaders to assist with formation and maintenance of community-based fire safe councils;
- 2) Assisting CFSCs to identify their local area priorities for pre-fire management, vegetation management, and emergency planning;
- 3) Providing implementation and coordination of fuel management projects that will establish and maintain defensible space around structures through locally identified community projects;
- 4) Providing assistance to CFSCs with identification of and application to grant funding sources.
- 5) Providing liaison between CFSCs and agencies as appropriate, including providing assistance to California Fire Safe Council as requested.
- 6) Providing and maintaining a variety of outreach and training venues for CFSCs, including website, electronic and hard copy newsletters, training and educational workshops, hosting Firewise workshops as funded, and other services as identified.

Forest Area Safety Taskforce communities lie within the boundaries of two of the county's RCD's. The FAST group was formed in 2002 in response to Governor Gray Davis' declaration of the Southern California forested areas a disaster area as a result of the magnitude of dead and dying trees from drought and bark beetle kill. Since the Cedar Fires of 2003, the FAST group has expanded its focus to include trees and chaparral that are dead/dying from the fires. The RCD of Greater San Diego County and the San Diego County Fire Safe Council are founding members of FAST. FAST is comprised of many diverse entities and agencies including federal, state, tribal, and local organizations and stakeholders that all contribute time, expertise and guidance for FAST projects. It continues to be an outstanding example of cooperation, communication and collaboration of partners. See Table 1, below for the list of local FSC's within the boundary areas of FAST.

The SDCFSC has operated under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Forestry, the San Diego County Fire Chief's Association and the Fire District's Association of San Diego County; and in cooperation with FireWise and the California Fire Alliance.

Role of the RCD of Greater San Diego County/SD County FSC

The combination of high biodiversity, large open space areas and urban sprawl in the foothills, as well as effects of a six-year drought, leads to a critically high fire danger situation and a need for education, outreach and specific vegetation management programs. The role of the RCD/SDCFSC is to assist and support all Community Fire Safe Councils county-wide with education and outreach efforts, as well as, on-the-ground fuel reduction programs to help increase the survival rate of life and property. All grant-funded projects, programs and services are currently administered, staffed and implemented through the RCD of GSDC in partnership with the SDCFSC.

All programs of the San Diego County Fire Safe Council work cooperatively with Resource Conservation Districts in San Diego County: RCD of Greater San Diego County, Upper San Luis Rey RCD, and Mission RCD.

TABLE 1. Community FSC's - San Diego County-wide List:

Barrett Junction FSC	Greater Vista FSC
Carveacre FSC, Alpine	Mt. Laguna FSC (FAST Area)
Chihuahua Valley FSC, Warner Springs	Mt. Woodsen FSC, Ramona
Crest FSC, El Cajon	Mountain Empire FSC, Campo
Crown Hills FSC, Alpine	- Potrero Chapter
Corte Madera FSC, Pine Valley (FAST Area)	Palomar Mountain FSC (FAST Area)
Deer Springs FSC	Pine Hills FSC, Julian (FAST Area)
Descanso Emergency Preparedness Group (FAST Area)	Ranches of Palos Verdes, Alpine
Encanto FSC, San Diego City	Ramona FSC
Fallbrook FSC	Scripps Ranch FSC (formerly Chimney Canyon), San Diego City
FSC of Greater Julian (FAST Area)	Sherilton Valley FSC, Descanso (FAST Area)
- Banner Grade Chapter	Talmadge FSC, San Diego City
- Cuyamaca Woods Chapter	Vista Valley Country Club FSC, Vista
- Lake Cuyamaca Chapter	Viejas Indian Reservation FSC
-Harrison Park Chapter	
- Julian Estates Chapter	
- Kentwood In The Pines Chapter	
- Kentwood II Chapter	·
-Whispering Pines Chapter	
- Wynola Chapter	

Communities At Risk in San Diego County*

* Ref. California Fire Alliance Communities At Risk List

(http://www.cafirealliance.org/communities at risk/communities at risk list)

TABLE 2. Communities-At-Risk

	Place Name	County	Federal Threat	Federally Regulated	Year
1	Alpine	San Diego		~	2001
2	Barona	San Diego	· •	~	2001
3	Barrett Junction	San Diego	~	√	2001
4	Bonita	San Diego			2001
5	Bonsall	San Diego			2001
6	Borrego Springs	San Diego			2001
7	Bostonia	San Diego			2001
8	Boulder Oaks	San Diego	~	✓	2001
9	Boulevard	San Diego	~	~	2001
10	Cameron Corners	San Diego	~	~	2001
11	Camp Pendleton North	San Diego	~	~	2001
12	Campo	San Diego	>	~	2001
13	Carlsbad	San Diego			2001
14	Casa de Oro-Mount Helix	San Diego		√	2001
15	Chula Vista	San Diego		~	2001
16	Coronado	San Diego	· •	. 🗸	2001
17	Cuyapaipe	San Diego	~	~	2001
18	De Luz	San Dìego	~	~	2001
19	Del Mar	San Diego			2001
20	Descanso	San Diego	~	~	2001
21	Dulzura	San Diego	~	~ .	2001
22	El Cajon	San Diego			2001
23	Encinitas	San Diego		· •	2001
24	Escondido	San Diego		~	2001
25	Fallbrook	San Diego	~	~	2001

26	Flinn Springs	San Diego		~	2001
27	Granite Hills	San Diego			2001
28	Guatay	San Diego	~	√	2001
29	Harbison Canyon	San Diego		~	2001
30	Harmony Grove	San Diego	~	~	2001
31	Harrison Park	San Diego	~	√	2001
32	Hidden Meadows	San Diego		~	2001
33	Holcomb Village	San Diego	~	~	2001
34	Hulburd Grove	San Diego	~	· ·	2001
35	Imperial Beach	San Diego	~	~	2001
36	Inaja	San Diego	~	✓	2001
37	Jacumba	San Diego	~	~	2001
38	Jamul	San Diego	~	✓	2001
39	Julian	San Diego	~	~	2001
40	La Cresta	San Diego	~		2001
41	La Jolla	San Diego	~	Ý	2001
42	La Mesa	San Diego			2001
43	La Posta	San Diego	~	~	2001
44	Lake Morena Village	San Diego	~	~	2001
45	Lake San Marcos	San Diego			2001
46	Lakeside	San Diego	·	*	2001
47	Lemon Grove	San Diego	~		2001
48	Lilac	San Diego			2001
49	Live Oak Springs	San Diego	· >	~	2001
50	Los Coyotes	San Diego	~	<u> </u>	2001
51	Manzanita	San Diego	~	~	2001
52	Mesa Grande	San Diego	✓	~	2001
53	Mount Laguna	San Diego	~	· ~	2001
54	National City	San Diego	·	ý	2001
55	Oak Grove	San Diego	~	~	2001
56	Oceanside	San Diego	~	~	2001

		r:			
57	Ocotillo Wells	San Diego			2001
58	Pala	San Diego	· ·		2001
59	Pala Mesa	San Diego	·		2001
60	Pauma Indian Reservation	San Diego	~	~	2001
61	Pauma Valley	San Diego	,	*	2001
62	Pine Valley	San Diego	~	\	2001
63	Potrero	San Diego	\	\	2001
64	Poway	San Diego		~	2001
65	Rainbow (Rainbow Valley)	San Diego	*	~	2001
66	Ramona	San Diego		~	2001
67	Ranchita	San Diego	✓	~	2001
68	Rancho San Diego	San Diego			2001
69	Rancho Santa Fe	San Diego			2001
70	Rincon Indian Reservation	San Diego	~	~	2001
71	San Diego	San Diego		~	2001
72	San Diego Country Estates	San Diego	. 🗸	~	2001
73	San Luis Rey Heights	San Diego			2001
74	San Marcos	San Diego		~	2001
75	San Onofre	San Diego	~		2001
76	San Pasqual	San Diego	~	~	2001
77	Santa Ysabel	San Diego	~	~	2001
78	Santee	San Diego		~	2001
79	Solana Beach	San Diego			2001
80	Spring Valley	San Diego		. ~	2001
81	Sycuan Indian Reservation	San Diego	~	~	2001
82	Tecate	San Diego	· •	~	2001
83	Tierra Del Sol	San Diego		· •	2001
84	Valley Center	San Diego	~	~	2001
85	Vista	San Diego		•	2001
86	Warner Springs	San Diego	~	√	2001
87	Wynola	San Diego	~	✓	2001

COLLABORATION: COMMUNITY/AGENCIES/FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the RCD/San Diego County Fire Safe Council CWPP are included in the following table. Members include representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Natural Resource Conservation Service, San Diego County Office of Emergency Services, San Diego County Land Use and Environmental Group, San Diego County Dept. of Planning and Land Use, Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, Forest Area Safety Taskforce, local fire protection districts, and local community Fire Safe Councils. Their names, organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

CWPP Development Team

Name	Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
Marty Leavitt, Chair And District Manager	San Diego County Fire Safe Council Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County	Programmatic administration, management, support. Primary development of CWPP and decision-making, community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment
Robin Kinmont, Coordinator	RCD of Greater San Diego County	project areas and methods. 1) Primary development of CWPP, community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and implementation of fuels treatment projects and methods. 2) Educational outreach and support for pre-wildfire disaster planning, defensible space, fuel reduction, and hazard assessment.
Ken Miller Ralph Steinhoff Fire Service Coordinators	County of San Diego, Dept. of Planning and Land Use County of San Diego, Land Use and Environment Group	Assistance with the 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.
John Wiecjorek, Senior Emergency Coordinator	County of San Diego, Office of Emergency Services	Provides input and expertise on planning and hazard mitigation.

Charles Maner, Chief	San Diego Headquarters, Monte Vista Unit, 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.
Thomas Porter, Unit Forester II	San Diego Headquarters, Monte Vista Unit, 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.
Clayton Howe, Fire Mitigation Education Specialist	South Coast Fire Management, Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of the Interior	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
Tom Gillett, District Ranger	Cleveland National Forest, Descanso Ranger Unit, United States Forest Service	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels, and FireWise concepts.
Fire Department Chiefs and Battalion Chiefs Chief David Nissen, S.D. County Rural Fire Protection District	County-wide Fire District Jurisdictions (18)	Provides local information and expertise. This could include community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.
Thomas Porter, Facilitator	Forest Area Safety Task Force (FAST) (<i>In the FAST Area</i>)	Assists with establishing priorities for fuel reduction and grant expenditure.
Local Communities -county wide	35 local Fire Safe Councils	Assist with education and outreach needs through requests for information, presentations, workshops, ideas, and distribution of pertinent brochures, handouts, posters, public service announcements, newsletters, and news releases to local community residents.
Antonio Blazevic, Mapping and GIS Specialist	Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County	Assists with maps for local Fire Safe Councils throughout the county.
Bryan Petit, Program Manager	Watershed Recovery Program, Natural Resources Conservation Services	Manages and defines federal programs for removal of dead/dying trees and chaparral under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

Community Overview

San Diego County enjoys a wonderful variety of natural landscapes: beaches, cliffs and marshes, lakes, rivers, streams, canyons, valleys, mountains, slopes, and flats. The Peninsular Ranges running north-south almost split the county in half.

<u>Population</u>: The county has 2.7 million acres (4,200 sq. mi.), 28% of which is developed, and approximately 75 % of which is undeveloped open space, interspersed with approximately 3 million people including the 7th largest city the City of San Diego, 72 communities, 26 tribes, and 18 federally recognized tribal nations. The San Diego region has been identified as a major "hot spot" for biodiversity and species endangerment. The landscape reflects a rich biodiversity, including over 2,000 plant species, more than any other county in the nation.

Climate: San Diego County possesses a semi-arid climate. Annual county-wide rainfall can vary, depending upon the location and geography, from 6" to 35". Most of the rainfall flows from the mountains to the Pacific Ocean through five major watersheds, which include 6 west-flowing rivers. Temperatures range from 19° to 110° depending upon season and elevation. Santa Ana winds blow particularly hard, up to 60-100 mile/hour gusts from October to March each year and contribute greatly to fire hazard conditions.

Watersheds and Rivers: Santa Margarita, San Diego, Salton Sea, Cottonwood/Tijuana River, Aliso/San Onofre, and 12 sub-watersheds within these major watersheds. Rivers are: Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, San Dieguito, San Diego, Sweetwater, and Otay.

Elevation varies from sea level to over 6,500 feet. The County has recently experienced 6 years of drought, leaving a large number of dead and dying trees and a disastrous fire hazard, which is the priority for the Forest Area Safety Taskforce (for more information regarding FAST, see sections: Overview and/or Collaboration: Communities/Agencies/Fire Safe Councils). Between the urban coast and the peaks of the Peninsular Ranges are the county's foothills and fast-growing semi-rural towns. These wide foothill regions, at elevations of 500' to 3,000', also contain most of the county's 18 Indian reservations. These 18 recognized tribal nations cover 125.000 acres of the county.

<u>Vegetation</u> in the foothills varies widely depending upon local conditions and topography, and includes mixed chaparral, chamise chaparral, montane chaparral, grassland/meadows, oak woodland, riparian forest, coniferous forest, riparian scrub, coastal sage scrub, desert and buckwheat scrub. Coastal and nearby inland areas include coastal salt marsh, coastal sage scrub, grasslands and landscape/planted vegetation that includes eucalyptus and other highly flammable vegetation. Vegetation not recently burned may be up to 60 years in age, greatly increasing fire danger.

<u>Fire history</u> from 1999-2003 yielded approx. 521,562 acres burned (see Fire History map). Major fires include:

 La Jolla Fire 	Oct. 1999	7,845 ac.	 Pines Fire 	Jul. 2002	61,691 ac.
 Pechanga 	Jul. 2000	11,733 ac.	 Otay Fire 	Oct. 2003	44,734 ac.
 Viejas Fire 	Jan. 2001	10,438 ac.	 Paradise Fire 	Oct. 2003	56,545 ac.
 Gavilan Fire 	Feb. 2002	5,663 ac.	 Cedar Fire 	Oct. 2003	270,685 ac.

The Fire Storms of 2003 burned about 33% of the county, from rural and mountainous areas to the City of San Diego. Major pre-1999 fires: 1970 fire burned 174,162 acres; 1958 Steward fire burned 68,104 acres; 1950 Conejos fire burned 62,848 acres; a 1944 fire burned 64,421 acres; a 1928 fire burned 62,967 acres; a 1913 fire burned 62,425 acres.

Wildland-Urban Interface: Many of San Diego's rural communities are nestled in the mountainous and foothill regions, tucked back in canyons, hidden valleys, and along/on ridge tops. Many have single ingress/egress access issues. These communities are a part of the Wildland Urban Interface, where neighborhoods are surrounded by or adjacent to open space and native habitat. These open spaces are owned and managed by a host of agencies that vary from San Diego City and the County of San Diego to state and federal land owners and sovereign nations. Many of these local communities have created Community Fire Safe Councils to help create partnerships with these surrounding public land owners and increase their safety and survival during a wildfire event.

Identification of Values at Risk

Using technology and local expertise, the San Diego County 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 San Diego County Fire Safe Council 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;
- Fire threat designated by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (FRAP);
- 3. A preliminary designation of the community's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone (CDF FRAP);
- 4. USGS topographic quad map of the community.

Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

Firefighting capability and preparedness varies between Volunteer fire departments/fire districts, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and/or local fire departments in targeted communities.

Initial response to all structural fire, medical and associated emergencies is the responsibility of the above-mentioned agencies. All mutual aid agreements, training, equipment, and response are the responsibility of the local fire department and the agencies listed above.

STRUCTURE IGNITIBILITY

The San Diego County Fire Safe Council supports and promotes Firewise activities in cooperation with the County of San Diego and the 18 fire districts, volunteer fire departments, California State Parks Fire Management, USFS, USFWS Fire Prevention, and the BLM Fire Management. RCD/San Diego County Fire Safe Council supports and educates the residents of San Diego County in ways to reduce structure ignitibility by meeting County of San Diego Building and Fire Code requirements.

The partnership that exists between the listed organizations (federal, state, local, and citizens) allows the RCD/SDCFSC and Community Fire Safe Councils to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels that could ignite residences and commercial facilities during Santa Ana winds and other high fire hazard conditions. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has declared removal of dead, dying, and diseased trees an "exigency" task and has implemented a \$30 million program county-wide to combat the dangers of the standing and fallen vegetation. Maintaining properties with the appropriate defensible space is a key factor to protecting lives and property in the mountain community (*Fire Defensible Space and You...*, 2005).

Structural Ignitibility Measures:

- Workshops—Several workshops will be held throughout the year on structural Communities, CFSC's, community groups, improvements. Target areas: Homeowners' Associations (HOAs), etc., in forested Wildland Urban Interface, chaparral, and incorporated areas, as funded. We will collaborate with responsible jurisdictional agencies. The workshops will help reduce fire hazards and structural ignitibility and will include publicizing, conducting, and preparing public outreach materials as needed to augment jurisdictional materials already in place. These workshops will be designed in cooperation with local FSC's and will present existing examples of roofing materials, deck styles, windows, vents, chimneys, over-hanging trees and brush. Suggestions will then be presented roofs—fire resistant materials, decks—fire resistant on improvements to: materials, skirting; windows—double paned; vents—1/4 " or smaller mesh; chimneys-regular sweeping, 1/2" mesh installed over top, spark arrester; brush / tree limbing/thinning and maintenance. Onsite examples will be shown both atrisk structures and reduced ignitibility improvement structures.
- 2. <u>Literature</u>—Provide structural improvement handouts and literature as needed for all local community Fire Safe Councils and their local community members to assist with each FSC's public outreach and education efforts. This information

will include specific improvements for: roofing; decking; windows; vents; chimneys; 100 ft. clearance; tree/brush pruning, limbing, and maintenance.

- 3. <u>Website</u>—Provide website links on our <u>www.firesafesdcounty.org</u> website to jurisdictional building and fire codes for community members of San Diego County.
- 4. <u>Codes</u>—Provide hard copy handouts of all pertinent building and fire codes to inquiring community members and local Fire Safe Councils.

FUEL REDUCTION PRIORITIES

The two focal points of the RCD/SDCFSC are California Fire Safe Council Support Education/Outreach and Fuel Reduction on private properties. An inherent part of the success of each of these programs is our partnerships and cooperation/collaboration with agencies, jurisdictions, and stakeholders.

1. CFSC Creation and Support

Goal: 100 local community FSC's by 2007. Ongoing existing support through federal grants.

2. CFSC Outreach and Education

Outreach programs include the need for defensible space, tips and techniques. Communities respond to education thru awareness of need which result in defensible space clearing on private properties and demand for fuel reduction assistance as funding allows. Public vs. private lands, Working with jurisdictions on FireWise planning, invasive plant species, targeting concentrated populations in the Communities-At-Risk areas (see Communities –At-Risk List above).

1. <u>City-Incorporated Areas</u>

- 1.1. Projects as funded by grants
- 1.2. Vegetation / landscaping
- 1.3. Working with partners to clear on public lands surrounding closely built communities/neighborhoods and to assist with creation and maintenance of defensible space in/near these neighborhoods
- 1.4. Secondary Zones—Differences between Zones 1 & 2 will be explained, with an emphasis on Zone 2, meaning Secondary Zones.

 Zone 1: Irrigated, ornamental plants species, cleared of dead vegetation, no more than 10% native vegetation, trees pruned, yearround maintenance. Zone 2: Selectively prune/thin native or naturalized vegetation to preserve the appearance on the area; create a mosaic pattern; no excavation, removal, or disturbance of existing root systems to prevent erosion; remove 50% of flammable fuel; no irrigation; periodic maintenance should occur.

1.5. Target HOA's (Homeowners Associations) thru mailers.

2. Rural-Unincorporated Areas

- 2.1. Projects as funded by grants.
- 2.2. Vegetation / landscaping
- 2.3. Working with partners to clear on public lands surrounding closely built communities/neighborhoods and to assist with creation and maintenance of defensible space in/near these neighborhoods
- 2.4. Target HOA's (Homeowners Associations) thru mailers.

The communities/local Fire Safe Councils that undertake fuel reduction projects as a result of CFSC Outreach and Education program events is a direct result of the efforts of the San Diego Fire Safe Council. This educational and organizational support supplied to existing Fire Safe councils coupled with the facilitation in creation of new Fire Safe councils is a potent combination. The combination of 1 and 2 above promises to create more fuel reduction and defensible space in and around communities than possible without community buy-in and active support. A proactive community organized under a Fire Safe Council can accomplish more than any agency standing alone.

3. <u>Current Programs</u>

Current geographic areas of programmatic focus for all fire safe council programs are all communities throughout San Diego County that are within the Wildland-Urban Interface and/or on the Communities-At-Risk List; this includes high-risk communities within the City of San Diego.

Current/Planned Projects

- 1. San Diego County Community Fire Safe Councils program, funded by US Forest Service, 2004-2006: This Program consists of living with wildfire education and outreach for our local forested communities, with a focus on those in the Wildland Urban Interface both north and south of the I-8 corridor and in Julian. This program also gives limited ongoing support for all local Fire Safe Councils county-wide and assists with establishing new and emerging local community FSC's. There are currently 10 targeted community Fire Safe Councils in this target area and additional support is provided on a limited basis to the remaining 24 Fire Safe Councils (See Table below) county-wide.
- 2. <u>San Diego County Community Fire Safe Councils program, funded by BLM, 2006-2007</u>: Provides program support of CFSC's to include all of San Diego County Communities-At-Risk (See Table 2); supports our ongoing wildfire education and outreach program.

- 3. The Chipping / Fuel Reduction program for San Diego County, funded by the US Forest Service 2004-2006: Supports our Fuel Reduction Program along the I-8 corridor and in Julian. Our chipping program is heavily supported by local residents who contribute volunteer hours clearing brush on private properties which allows us to then chip the brush piles. This program is supported by our local FSC's and assists WUI residents with ongoing fuel reduction and defensible space creation and maintenance.
- 4. <u>2006-2007 Fuel Reduction Program</u> is pending funding.
- 5. 2005-2006 GIS/Mapping support is provided by the RCD to the Watershed Recovery Project through funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- 6. <u>2005-2006</u> public outreach support is provided by the RCD to the <u>Watershed Recovery Project</u> through funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- 7. GIS Technician / Mapping Support program, software funded by ESRI, 2005: This mapping program will be used to assist the San Diego County Fire Safe Council and local community Fire Safe Councils with our and their ongoing Community Wildfire Protection Planning efforts.
- 8. Future funding for fire safe council programs, including ongoing CFSC support and fuel reduction programs, is sought on an ongoing basis through such mechanisms as the Grants Clearinghouse (CAFSC), individual granting agencies' funding programs, and private grants and donations.

4. Future Programs

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- 1) Ongoing assistance to forested and Wildland Urban Interface areas as funded.
 - Fire Safe Council support—Creation and support of ultimately independent FSC's through support and education. 2004-2006 programs include: forested communities funded under USFS. 2006-2007 programs include: county-wide communities funded under BLM 2006. 2006-2008 programs pending Grant Clearinghouse and other grant funding applications.
 - 2. Defensible space education incorporating long-term maintenance tenets.

- 3. CWPP planning for SDCFSC and local FSC's
- 4. Pre-fire planning—education and outreach for fire prevention and community planning.
- 5. Emergency Planning and Evacuation Preparedness
- 6. Mapping & signage
- 7. Vegetation planting—fire resistant
- 2) Target chaparral communities—clearing around communities including open space, canyons, etc.
 - Fuel Reduction—including chipping, mastication and brush clearing for defensible space creation and maintenance projects. 2004-2006 programs include: I-8 corridor and Julian under USFS. Tentative 2006-2007 fuel reduction programs subject to finalization by US Fish & Wildlife. 2006-2008 programs pending Grant Clearinghouse and other grant funding applications.
 - 2. Fuel Breaks—Private land in cooperation/coordination with agency land owners.
 - 3. Brush Management and fuel load reduction on private land and along evacuation corridors, including single ingress/egress evacuation routes.
 - 4. Long-term maintenance of all defensible space projects as funding permits.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan developed for San Diego County Fire Safe Council:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and federal land management agencies in the vicinity of San Diego County Fire Safe Council 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 San Diego County Fire Safe Council.
- 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 Board of Supervisors Pamela Slater-Price, Chair STATE AGENCY

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Charles Maner, Chief

APPLICABLE GOVERNMENT=LOCAL

FIKE

San Diego County Fire Service

Coordinator

Ralph Steinhoff or Ken Miller

INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITY

(Mandatory Signature Page)

APPLICABLE GOVERNMENT

City of San Diego

Jerry Sanders, Mayor

COLLABORATORS

(Signatures)

City of San Diego Fire & Rescue Department Jeff Bowman, Chief

California Department of Forestry Charles R. Maner, Chief

San Diego/County Fire Safe Council

Marty Leavitt, Chair,

And Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, District Manager

San Diego County Rural Fire Protection District

David Nissen, Chief

County of San Diego

Raymond Servandet

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Glossary of Terms

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) – The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure (NFPA, NFPA 1144, 2002, p. 4).

Aspect - Compass direction toward which a slope faces (NFPA, NFPA 1144, 2002, p. 4).

Building – Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy (NFPA, NFPA 1144, 2002, p. 4).

Combustible – Any material that, in the form in which it is used and under the conditions anticipated, will ignite and burn or will add appreciable heat to an ambient fire (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1144</u>, 2002, p. 5).

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – Address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, or structure protection. The process of developing a CWPP can help communities clarify and refine their priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface (Source: <u>Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.</u> March, 2004).

Condition Class – Describes fire-related risk to ecosystems and relates current expected wildfires to their historic frequency and effects. Condition class ranks are defined as the relative risk of losing key components that define an ecosystem. Higher ranked areas present greater risk to ecosystem health. Condition class is a measure of the expected response of ecosystems to fire given current vegetation type and structure that often is far different from that historically present.

Class	Departure from natural regimes	Vegetation composition, structure, fuels	Fire behavior, severity, pattern	Disturbance agents, native species, hydrologic functions	Increased smoke production
Low				Within natural	
Condition	None,			range of	
Class 1	minimal	Similar	Similar	variation	Low
Moderate				Outside	
Condition		Moderately	Uncharacteri	historical range	,
Class 2	Moderate	Altered	stic	of variation	Moderate
High Condition	·	Significantly	Highly uncharacteris	Substantially outside historical range	
Class 3	High	different	tic	of variation	High

(Source: CDF FRAP 2003 Forest and Range Assessment, p. 98)

Defensible Space – An area as defined by the AHJ (typically a width of 30 feet or more) between an improved property and a potential wildland fire where combustible materials and vegetation have been removed or modified to reduce the potential for fire on improved property spreading to wildland fuels or to provide a safe working area for fire fighters protecting life and improved property form wildland fire (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1144</u>, 2002, p. 5).

Disaster – Disaster is characterized by the scope of an emergency. An emergency becomes a disaster when it exceeds the capability of the local resources to manage it. Disasters often result in great damage, loss, or destruction (Greene, R.W., <u>Confronting Catastrophe</u>, ESRI Press, 2002, p. 110).

Dry Hydrant – An arrangement of pipe permanently connected to a water source other than a piped, pressurized water supply system that provides a ready means of water supply for fire-fighting purposes and that utilizes the drafting (suction) capability of fire department pumpers (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1144</u>, 2002, p. 5).

Dwelling – One or more living units, each providing complete and independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1144</u>, 2002, p. 4).

Emergency – A deviation from planned or expected behavior or course of events that endangers or adversely affects people, property, or the environment (Greene, R.W., <u>Confronting Catastrophe</u>, ESRI Press, 2002, p. 110).

Fire Behavior – The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Fire Frequency – A broad measure of the rate of fire occurrence in a particular area. For historical analyses, fire frequency is often expressed using the fire return interval calculation. For modern-era analyses, where data on timing and size of fires are recorded, fire frequency is often best expressed using fire rotation (<u>CDF FRAP 2003 Forest and Range Assessment</u>, p. A-12).

Fire Hazard – A fuel complex, defined by volume, type condition, arrangement, and location that determine the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Fire Hydrant – A valved connection on a water supply system having one or more outlets and that is used to supply hose and fire department pumpers with water (NFPA, *NFPA 1144*, 2002, p. 5).

Fire Lane – A means of access or other passageway designated and identified to provide access for emergency apparatus where parking is not allowed (NFPA, NFPA 1141, 1998, p. 4).

Fire Protection – All measures taken to reduce the burden of fire on the quality of life. Fire protection includes measures such as fire prevention, fire suppression, built-in *fire protection systems*, and planning and building codes (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1141</u>, 1998, p. 4).

Fire Protection System – Any fire alarm device or system or fire extinguishing device or system, or their combination, that is designed and installed for detecting, controlling, or extinguishing a fire or otherwise alerting occupants, or the fire department, or both, that a fire has occurred (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1141</u>, 1998, p. 4).

Fire Threat – The combination of two factors: 1) fire frequency, or the likelihood of a given area burning, and 2) potential fire behavior (hazard). Components include surface fuels, topography, fire history, and weather conditions (Source: CDF FRAP, http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/frapgisdata/output/fthrt.txt, <a href="http://components.ncbi.nlm.nc

Fire Regime – A measure of the general pattern of fire frequency and severity typical to a particular area or type of landscape: The regime can include other metrics of the fire, including seasonality and typical fire size, as well as a measure of the pattern of variability in characteristics (<u>CDF FRAP 2003 Forest and Range Assessment</u>, p. A-12).

Fire Rotation – An area-based average estimate of fire frequency, calculated as the length of time necessary for an area equal to the total area of interest to burn. Fire rotation is often applied to regionally stratified land groupings where individual fire-return interval across the variability of the strata (i.e., the fine scale pattern of variation in timing of fires) is unknown, but detailed information on fire size is known.

Hence, fire rotation is a common estimate of fire frequency during periods of recorded fire sizes (<u>CDF FRAP 2003 Forest and Range Assessment</u>, p. A-12).

Fire Weather – Weather conditions that influence fire starts, fire behavior or fire suppression (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Fuels – All combustible material within the wildland/urban interface or intermix, including vegetation and structures (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Fuel loading – The volume of fuel in a given area generally expressed in tons per acre (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Fuel Models - Description of the types of vegetative combustible material:

Light Fuels - grasses, forbs

Medium Fuels - short light brush and small trees

Heavy Fuels - tall dense brush, timber and hardwoods

Slash Fuels – logs, chunks, bark, branches, stumps, and broken understory trees and brush (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Fuel Modification – Any manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition or the resistance to fire control (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

GIS - See Geographic Information Systems

Geographic Information Systems – The combination of skilled persons, spatial and descriptive data, analytic methods, and computer software and hardware – all organized to automate, manage, and deliver information though geographic presentation (i.e., maps) (Zeiler, M., <u>Modeling Our World</u>, ESRI Press, 1999, p. 46).

Hazard – Refers generally to physical characteristics that may cause an emergency. Earthquake faults, flood zones, and highly flammable brush fields are all examples of hazards (Greene, R.W., <u>Confronting Catastrophe</u>, ESRI Press, 2002, p. 110). Also see **Fire Hazard**.

Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), 2003 – Gives incentives for communities to engage in comprehensive forest planning and prioritization. This legislation includes statutory incentives for the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to give consideration to the priorities of local communities as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuel reduction priorities. The Act emphasizes the need for federal agencies to work collaboratively with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and it places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a CWPP (Source: <u>Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan</u>. March, 2004).

Improved Property – A piece of land or real estate upon which a structure has been placed, a marketable crop is growing (including timber), or other property improvement has been made (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1144</u>, 2002, p. 5).

Intermix – An area where improved property and wildland fuels meet with no clearly defined boundary (NFPA, *NFPA 1144*, 2002, p. 5).

Ladder Fuels – Fuels that provide vertical continuity allowing fire to carry from surface fuels in the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Mitigation – Action that moderates the severity of a fire or risk (NFPA, NFPA 1144, 2002, p. 5).

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - a non-profit membership association that produces the National Fire Codes and fire and life safety educational material and programs (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

NFPA-1144 Standard for Protection of life and Property from Wildfire – Standard developed by the NFPA to be used to provide minimum planning, construction, maintenance, education, and management elements for the protection of life, property, and other values that could be threatened by wildland fire. The standard shall be used to provide minimum requirements to parties responsible for fire protection, land use planning, property development, property maintenance, and others responsible for or interested in improving fire and life safety in areas where wildland fire could threaten lives, property, and other values (NFPA, NFPA 1144, 2002, p. 4).

Noncombustible – Any material that, in the form in which it is used and under the conditions anticipated will not ignite and burn nor will add appreciable heat to an ambient fire (NFPA, NFPA 1144, 2002, p. 5).

Overstory – That portion of the trees in a forest that forms the upper or uppermost layer (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Risk – The potential or likelihood of an emergency to occur. For example, the risk of damage to a structure from wildfire is high if it is built upon, or adjacent to, a highly flammable brush field or other area deemed to have a high **Fire Threat** (Greene, R.W., <u>Confronting Catastrophe</u>, ESRI Press, 2002, p. 110).

Slope – The variation of terrain from the horizontal; the number of feet rise or fall per 100 feet measured horizontally, expressed as a percentage (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities). Upward or downward incline or slant (NFPA, NFPA 1144, 2002, p. 5).

Surface Fuels – Fuels lying on or near the surface of the ground, consisting of leaf and needle litter, dead branch material, downed logs, bark, tree cones, and low stature living plants (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Turnaround – A portion of a roadway, unobstructed by parking, that allows for a safe reversal of direction for emergency equipment (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1144</u>, 2002, p. 5).

Turnouts – A widening in a travelway of sufficient length and width to allow vehicles to pass one another (NFPA, <u>NFPA 1144</u>, 2002, p. 5).

Understory – Low-growing vegetation (herbaceous, brush or reproduction) growing under a stand of trees. Also, that portion of trees in a forest stand below the *Overstory* (FIREWISE Communities, 2003, http://www.firewise.org/communities).

Water Supply - A source of water for fire-fighting activities (NFPA, NFPA 1144, 2002, p. 5).

Wildfire – Any fire occurring on undeveloped land; the term specifies a fire occurring on a wildland area that does not meet management objectives and thus requires a suppression response. Wildland fire protection agencies use this term generally to indicate a vegetation fire. Wildfire often replaces such terms as forest fire, brush fire, range fire, and grass fire (<u>CDF FRAP 2003 Forest and Range Assessment</u>, p. A-17).

Wildland – A region with minimal development as evidenced by few structures; transportation networks may traverse region. Region typically contains natural vegetation and may be used for recreational or agricultural purposes (*CDF FRAP 2003 Forest and Range Assessment*, p. A-17).

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) – Commonly described as the zone where structures and other human development meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. In the absence of a CWPP, Section 101 (16) of the HFRA defines WUI as "(I) an area extending ½ mile from the boundary of

an at-risk community; (II) an area within 1 ½ miles of the boundary of an at-risk community, including any land that (1) has a sustained steep slope that creates the potential for wildfire behavior endangering the at-risk community; (2) has a geographic feature that aids in creating an effective fire break, such as a road or ridge top; or (3) is in condition class 3, as documented by the Secretary in the project-specific environmental analysis; (III) an area that is adjacent to an evacuation route for an at-risk community that the Secretary determines, in cooperation with the at-risk community, requires hazardous fuels reduction to provide safer evacuation from the at-risk community." A CWPP offers the opportunity to establish a localized definition and boundary for the wildland-urban interface (Source: <u>Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan</u>. March, 2004).

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 Materials 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, <u>Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program Overview</u> (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.
- 10. National Fire Plan
- 11. California Fire Plan
- 12. California State Public Resources Code 4291-4299
- 13. California State Public Resources Code 4421-4446

Appendix B—Maps

Figure 1: San Diego County Community Fire Safe Councils Map

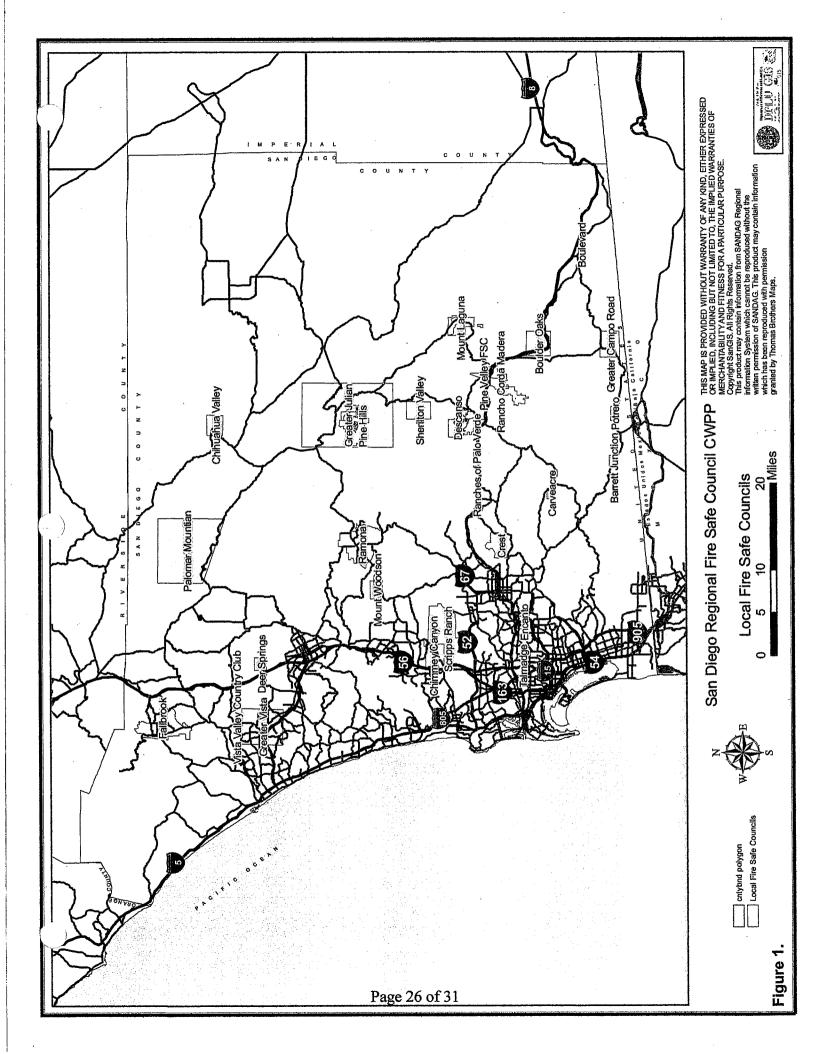
Figure 2: Communities At Rick/Wildland-Urban Interface

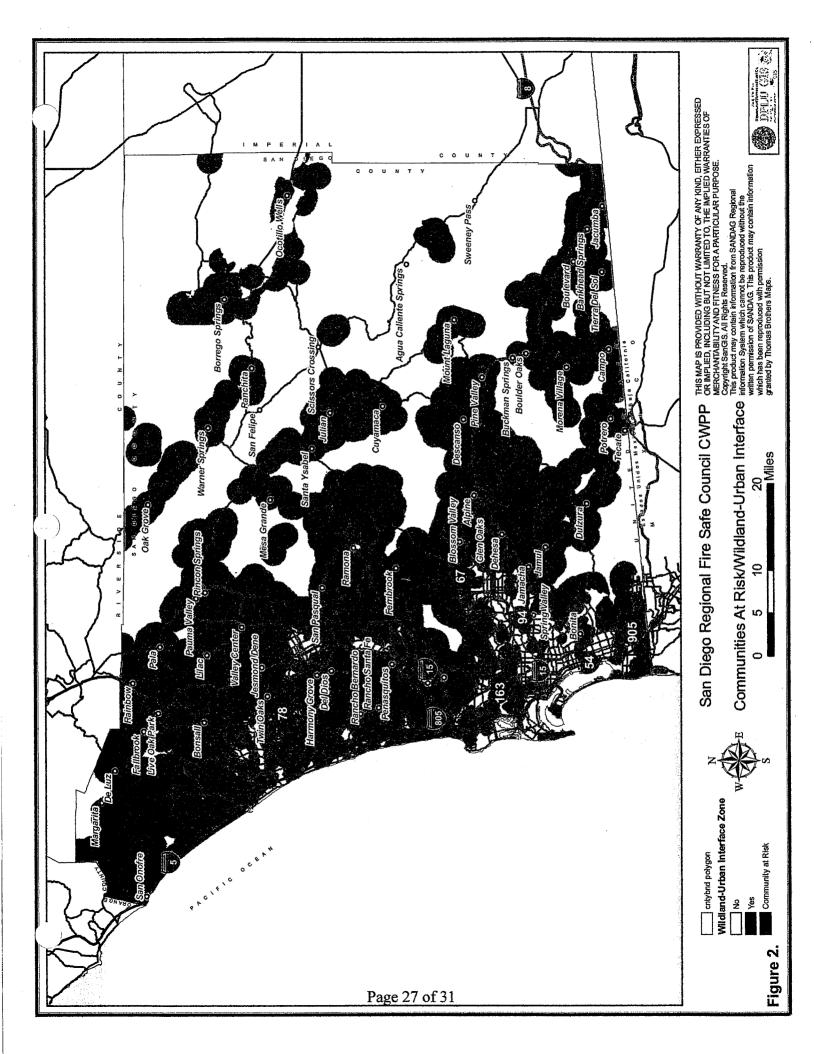
Figure 3: USGS Topographic Map

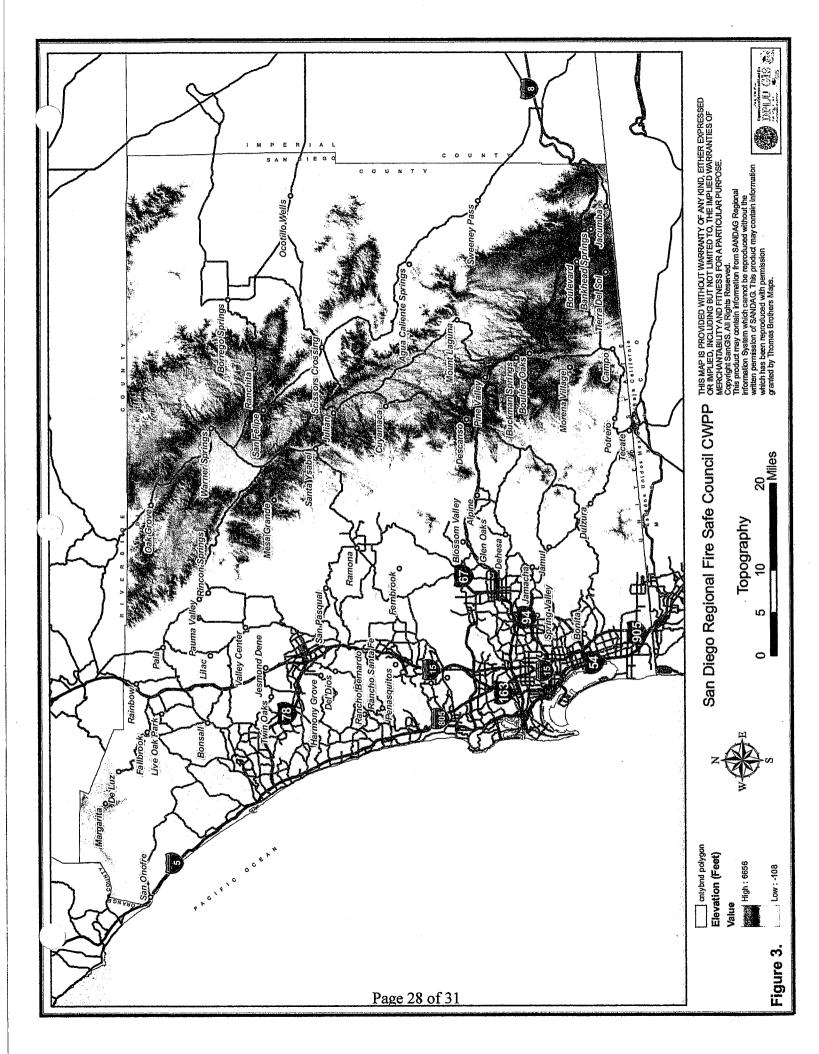
Figure 4: Fire History 1910 – 2003 (DPLU GIS)

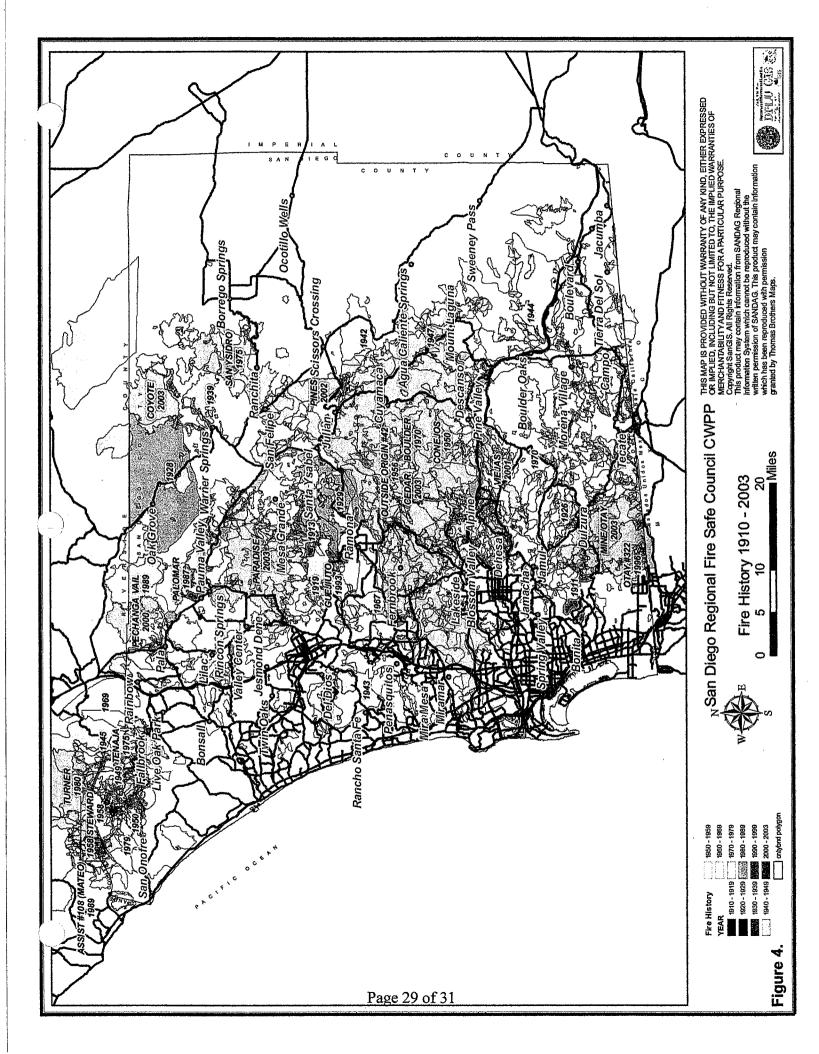
Large fire history, generally 300-acre minimum for CDF fires since 1950 and 10-acre minimum for USFS fires since 1910, but many smaller fires as well.

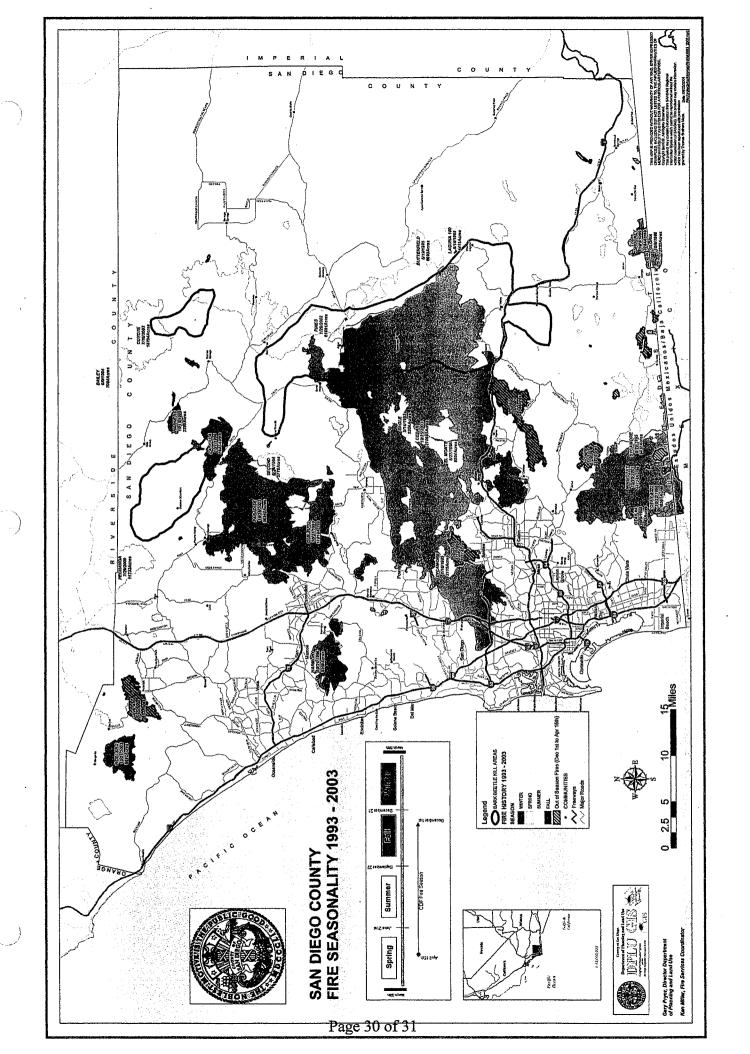
Figure 5: San Diego County Fire Seasonality 1993-2003 (DPLU GIS) 10 years of fire seasons.











FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN OF THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF GREATER SAN DIEGO COUNTY / SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Please contact:

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