

Fire Safe Council of Harrison Park

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

San Diego County, California

Date: 2/23/2015

Document Tracking

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San Diego County, California

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Introduction

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by the Harrison Park Association and the Fire Safe Council of Harrison Park with guidance and support from the County of San Diego Fire Safe Council, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Julian/Cuyamaca Fire Protection District, The San Diego County Fire Authority and The Bureau of Land Management.

The CWPP was developed to help clarify requirements and priorities for the protection of personnel, property, land and animals. It will also provide community guidance, support and education for preparation in the event of a wildfire.

Fire Safe Council of Harrison Park

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

San Diego County, California

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	1
SECTION I: COLLABORATION	
A. COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS	3
B. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW	4
C. COMMUNITY FIRE HISTORY.....	5
D. IDENTIFICATION OF VALUES AT RISK	6
E. LOCAL PREPAREDNESS & FIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITY	6
SECTION II: PRIORITIZED FUEL REDUCTION TREATMENTS	
A. PRIORITIES	7
B. EXISTING PROJECTS	9
SECTION III: TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY	
A. MITIGATION STRATEGIES.....	10
SECTION IV: SIGNATURE PAGE	12
SECTION V: APPENDIX A – LIST OF REFERENCES & DOCUMENTS.....	13
SECTION V: APPENDIX B – CWPP MEETING TRACKING	14
SECTION V: APPENDIX C – MAPS	16
SECTION V: APPENDIX D – Amendments, etc.	19

ADDENDUM – AUTHORS CONTACT INFORMATION	20
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This information is not included as part of the final public CWPP document for protection of the applicant's privacy as per the Privacy of Information Act. It will be attached as a separate document for internal use only and must be updated/revised periodically throughout the life of the document.

Section I: Collaboration

A. Community / Agencies / Fire Safe Councils

The representatives involved in the development of the Harrison Park CWPP are included in the following table. Their organization, roles and responsibilities are indicated below.

CWPP Development Team:

Organization	Roles/Responsibilities
Harrison Park Association	Primary development of the CWPP, the decision making, community risk and value assessments, development of community protection priorities, establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods and community fire safety.
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)	Facilitation, planning and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards. Provide input and expertise on forestry, fire and fuels.
Julian/Cuyamaca Fire Protection District	Provide information and expertise, establish community risk and value assessment, fire protection priorities and establish fuel treatment areas and methods.
San Diego County Fire Authority	Provides input on County assistance and responsibilities and mapping support.
United States Forest Service	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire and fuels and fire safe concepts.
Bureau of Land Management	Provides input and expertise on federal lands forestry, fire, fuels and fire safe concepts.
Fire Safe Council of San Diego County	Provides information and support for hazard assessment, and defensible space, as well as grant information.
San Diego County, Planning and Development Services	Ensures property owners meet minimum fire safe requirements for future development.
San Diego County Sheriffs Dept.	Provide input and expertise for emergency evacuation and escape route development.
San Diego County Park Department	Provide input and expertise and fuels maintenance for adjacent areas.

B. Community Overview

The legal description for Harrison Park is the southeast Quarter of Section 21 (1 square mile) in Township 13 South, Range 4 East, San Bernardino Meridian, in San Diego County. It is situated west of State Route 79, via Harrison Park Road, approximately 5 miles south of Julian and approximately 5 miles north of Cuyamaca Lake. Harrison Park is at the far south end of the Greater Julian area and presently occupies an area of approximately two (2) square miles. The Harrison Park Association and the Harrison Park Fire Safe Council includes areas within and adjacent to the Park, which have developed over the years and which are beyond the original boundaries (See Harrison Park Fire Safe Council map in Appendix C).

Geographically, Harrison Park occupies the northern slope of North Peak, the summit being about a mile to the south and some 1,400 feet higher. To the east and north, each about one mile away, is the Pacific Crest. To the west is the canyon of Cedar Creek and beyond that, some miles farther is the San Diego River. Minor canyons and hills comprise Harrison Park, with elevations varying from 4,400 feet in the flatter northwest area to 4,800 feet in the highest and hilly southeast area. This causes a micro-climate that differentiates Harrison Park from much of the surrounding area slightly delaying seasonal changes. The majority of Harrison Park lies within The Cleveland National Forest. The habitat is mixed oak woodland, with conifers and chaparral.

Approximately 90 years ago, Mr. Harrison purchased a quarter section of land in the Cuyamaca Mountains. With the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to camp in the mountains, he subdivided the land into small rectangular lots, 20' X 82.5', laid out in a grid pattern. He called it Harrison Park and proceeded to sell the lots to be used as tent camp sites. Over the subsequent years many adjacent lots were purchased and merged to develop cabin sites. Most access roads to the cabin sites within Harrison Park are private roads without easements.

Harrison Park has only one dedicated, identified and maintained means of access or egress which creates an impediment to both responding emergency units and the safe evacuation of community occupants. The single access and egress is Harrison Park Road and a short portion of Iron Springs Road, which is a San Diego County maintained road from the intersection with State Route 79 into the park. The remaining primary roads within the park are maintained by Permanent Road Division 18 (PRD 18). Minor access roads are privately maintained and poorly sign posted. All road clearance widths are marginal. This will be addressed in Appendix A.

Harrison Park is a residential community, with the exception of the 200 acre Kenner Ranch and the 161 acre Whispering Winds Conference Center on the Northern perimeter. In 2003, at the time of The Cedar Fire, there were approximately 157 homes plus out buildings, with full-and part-time residents. The Cedar fire started near Ramona. Driven by Santa Anna winds, it surged westward toward San Diego. As the East winds subsided, the fire turned, and on October 28th heading east, eventually destroying all but four of the homes within Harrison Park.

Although the Cedar Fire devastated Harrison Park, the area is being rebuilt. There are 117 new and 4 existing homes at this time, with several others in various stages of development. The new construction is permitted, reviewed and inspected by the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use, and/or The Federal Housing and Urban Development Agency. Construction meets nationally established standards for fire safe construction and fire protection, which includes building separation, non-combustible exterior walls and eaves, dual pane windows and Class-A roofing material, residential fire sprinklers, on site water storage with Fire Department Connections on most sites and smoke detectors. Harrison Park, however, is still relatively remote and is defined as a Wildland Urban Interface Area, a residential community within a forest. The native California Ceanothus, which flourished in the years after the fire, is slowly being abated. The oaks, cedars and pines, some from seeds and some from stumps, are flourishing.

C. Community Fire History

Wildfires are not uncommon in and around the Julian Cuyamaca area. This includes:

July 2002: The Pines Fire (Volcan Mountain and Julian Area.)

October 2003: The Cedar Fire

September 2005: The Volcan Mountain Fire.

October 2003; The Cedar Fire burned approximately 280,000 acres, destroyed 2,232 residences, 22 commercial properties, 566 outbuildings and 148 vehicles, and caused 14 fatalities and over 104 firefighter injuries in San Diego County. In Harrison Park, the fire destroyed more than 150 homes, numerous outbuildings and the majority of the vegetation within Harrison Park.

D. Identification of Values at Risk

The most recent community survey of Harrison Park indicates:

- 121 existing and new residential structures with an estimated combined value of more than \$42,000,000.00, not including outbuildings, tools, equipment and vehicles.
- The 200 acre Kenner Ranch, with an estimated value of \$2,200,000.00
- The 161 acre Whispering Winds Catholic Conference Center, a Catholic retreat facility with its 11 buildings and 5 live-in staff units, which host 10,000 visitors annually.

E. Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

The table below reflects the primary responsibilities of the Fire Emergency Response Agencies that respond to Harrison Park.

Agency	Fire	Medical	Other Emergencies	Wildland Fire
CAL FIRE	X			X
US Forest Service	X			X
Julian/Cuyamaca Fire Protection District	X	X	X	X
San Diego County Fire Authority	X	X	X	X

As homes destroyed by the Cedar Fire were being rebuilt to current Fire Resistive code requirements, Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems were required, with on-site water storage supplies of up to 5,000 gallons. Many of these storage systems were provided with connection points convenient for Fire Department use. These storage and connection points are being cataloged and will be identified for responding fire units.

Section II: Prioritized Fuel Reduction Treatments

A. Priorities

Overall Strategies and Management

A key element of the planning strategy is to link together existing and future fuels reduction projects so they can provide continuous corridors of protection along a perimeter surrounding the Harrison Park area. The areas being linked together include access routes for responding agencies, emergency evacuation routes and natural or man made fuel breaks, defensible space projects for community homes, accomplished through interagency cooperation. Priority is then given to those areas that can achieve the greatest degree of protection with the limited resources available. The primary goals of this plan are prioritized as follows:

1. Provide, improve and maintain safe emergency access and evacuation routes,
2. Provide and maintain defensible space around values at risk.
3. Reduce hazardous fuels on vacant properties adjacent to values at risk.
4. Maintain the fire protection as it was designed and built into structures.

Methodology for Priority #1

Provide, improve and maintain safe emergency access and evacuation routes,.

Identify and evaluate existing access and evacuation routes and conditions;

Locate and Identify alternate emergency evacuation routes.

Provide appropriate signage and community Information and Education;

Partnerships with adjacent property associations, PRD 18, Julian/Cuyamaca F.P.D, CAL FIRE, County DPLU, County Roads, County Sheriff;

Direct effort: HPFSC will coordinate with partner agencies, adjacent property associations and land owners. (See Appendix D, attached)

Methodology for Priority #2

Provide and maintain Defensible Space around values at risk.

Provide community Information and Education;

Coordinate and support clean up and Chipping Programs;

Coordinate and support Defensible Space Assistance Program;

Develop a Cost Sharing Initiative, through grant applications;

Partnership with Julian/Cuyamaca FPD, CAL FIRE, USFS;

Direct effort: HPFSC will identify and develop grant applications, coordinate with partner agencies and disseminate appropriate education and information to property owners.

Methodology for Priority #3

Reduce hazardous fuels on vacant properties adjacent to values at risk .

Identify and evaluate hazardous vacant properties and contact owners;

Support property owners in clearing fuel hazards;

Provide appropriate community Information and Education;

Partnerships with Julian/Cuyamaca FPD, CAL FIRE, BLM, USFS;

Direct effort: HPFSC will coordinate these efforts with partner agencies and disseminate appropriate information to property owners.

Methodology for Priority #4

Maintain fire protection as it was designed and built into structures.

Provide community Information and Education.

Partnership with the Julian/Cuyamaca FPD and Cal Fire.

Partnership with the County Department of Planning and Development Services

Direct effort: HPFSC will coordinate with partner agencies and disseminate appropriate education and information for property owners.

B Existing Projects

The Harrison Park Association has existed for over 20 years but was reconstituted approximately four years ago. The Board of Directors is eager to provide guidance for the safety and improvement of the community. The application and the formation of the Harrison Park Fire safe Council is a major step for the Association. Recognizing the need to identify the community fire risks and affect the necessary remedies in an organized manor in cooperation with our responding fire and emergency agencies. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be submitted to the San Diego County Fire Safe Council for review in January of 2015.

Community Bulletin Board

The Community Bulletin Board has been approved for design and location and is to be erected at the entrance to Harrison Park, at the South West corner of the intersection of Hwy 79 and Harrison Park Road, near the Group Mail Boxes. This project will be completed in the first quarter of 2015.

Trash Drive

At their meeting of September 9, 2014, the Board members finalized plans for their First Annual Trash Drive and membership drive. The event will be over a three day period. A date is to be determined for the spring of 2015 from 8 A.M. until dusk.

A dumpster will be provided for grass, branches and green trimmings.

Dumping will be free for HPA members.

There will be \$10.00 fee for non members

HPA Membership forms will be available at the event.

A separate Chipping event is being planned for a later date.

Section III: Treatment of Structural Ignitability

Mitigation Strategy

The following is a description of the challenges, and methods of improvement and implementation proposed for the community:

The Cedar Fire destroyed all but four of the 157 homes in Harrison Park and nearly all of the surrounding forested area. Those that survived were better prepared for fire with defensible space and construction. By virtue of that near total destruction, all new residential construction in Harrison Park meets the current higher standard Wildland Urban Interface Code requirements for building separation, roof, eave, wall and opening protection and life safety fire sprinkler systems.

The single access/egress road into and out of Harrison Park remains a deterrent to fire department response, and is an impediment to emergency evacuation. Additionally, the policy of the electric service provider, to turn off electrical power during specified conditions of temperature, humidity and wind speed, preclude the effective consideration of hose lines or exterior sprinkler systems on properties that rely on wells and electric pumps.

Therefore any strategy for effectively preventing or reducing the loss of life and personal property in a future wildfire must initially focus on:

- Improvements and maintenance of emergency access and evacuation routes including brush cleared area adjacent to all roads,
- Maintaining a defensible space around structures,
- Management of vegetation on vacant properties and
- Maintaining the structural fire resistance of habitable structures and out buildings.

Nationally recognized agencies have identified the necessary precautions that individual landowners and homeowners must take to protect their houses and properties. These recommendations generally apply to the house and adjacent vegetation, and an area up to 100 foot radius around the house. In rural, mountainous areas we must look beyond this. These recommendations, in addition to the use of fire-resistant materials in the building of the house, include:

- Removing flammable materials such as firewood and combustible debris from directly adjacent to the house;
- Thinning dense groups of trees within 100 feet of the house;
- Pruning lower limbs from trees near the house, up to 8-10 feet on mature trees;
- Mowing grasses, raking needle litter and pruning ornamental shrubs;
- Cleaning roofs and gutters of dead branches, leaves and needles;
- Removal of dead and dying trees, shrubs and debris from adjacent properties. Paying particular attention to slopes and canyons which can draw fire to the property.

Vegetation Management needs to start at the exterior walls of the structure. It must then lead through a safe corridor to an area of safety. The most effective step is to assure adequate clearance between structures and flammable vegetation. Such clearance would reduce the potential for flames of a crown fire to reach a structure.

Firebrands are a significant source of ignition to structures. This is particularly hazardous in Harrison Park, a mountainous area where homes are separated by valleys and small canyons that quickly fill with highly flammable vegetation. This vegetation must be constantly inspected and controlled.

Harrison Park has minimal and sometime difficult access roads, both into and within the community. This requires that individual properties be consistently maintained so that they can resist the spread of fire should the responding fire agencies be unable to reach them in real time. This will also increase the fire fighters safety and provide a greater opportunity of success in protecting the property when they do reach it.

In addition to the efforts in and around Harrison Park, neighboring agencies are aggressively working to control fire spread into this area; The Bureau of Land Management has existing and planned fuels reduction and control projects including Oriflamme Mountain, and Chariot Canyon areas and the Sunrise Firebreak which are designed to control the spread of fire from the east of our area. Fuels management projects in and around William Heise County Park aid in preventing the propagation of fire from our North West corner.

Section IV – Signature Page

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan developed for Harrison Park area:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and agencies in the vicinity of Harrison Park have been consulted,
- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends types and methods that will protect the Harrison Park area,
- 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.

Julian Cuyamaca Fire Protection
District
Fire Chief Rick Marinelli

California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection
Unit Chief, Tony Mecham

San Diego County Fire Authority
Greg Schreiner, Fire Marshall

Bureau of Land Management
Clay Howe

San Diego County, Planning and
Development Services.

San Diego County Fire Safe Council
Don Butz, President

Harrison Park Fire Safe Council

Section V: References and Appendices

Appendix A: List of Reference Documents

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Template for San Diego County

Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Fire Safe Council of Greater Julian CWPP

Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Greater Alpine

County GIS and other survey maps of HPFSC area.

Appendix B: Meeting Tracking

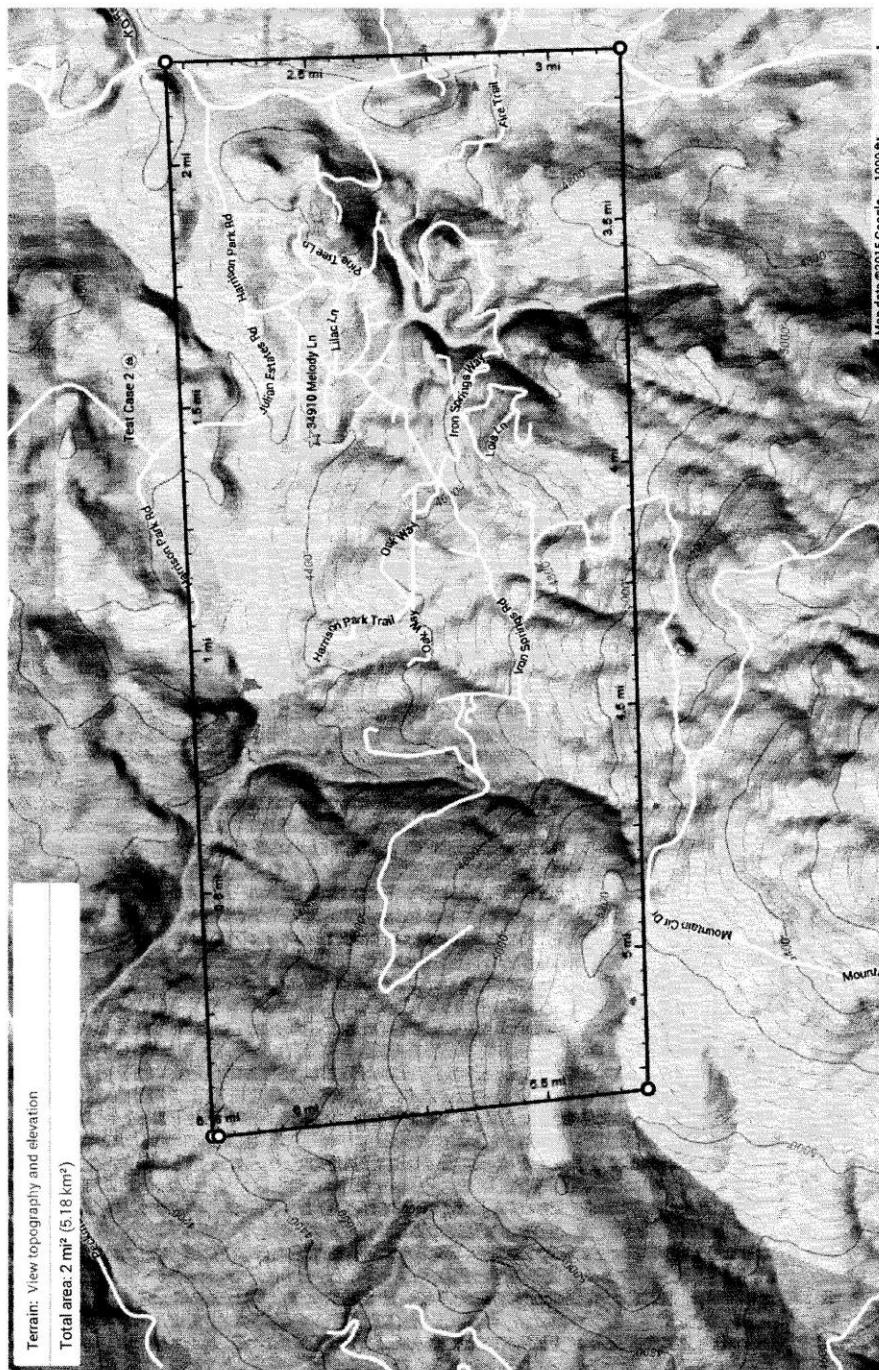
5/10/14	Harrison Park Assoc. (HPA) Board of Directors Mtg. Discussed need for Fire Safe Council (HPFSC) and assigned responsibility.
5/17/14	Telephone Conference (TC) with Julian Cuyamaca Fire Protection District (JCFPD) Chief Marinelli Re. Forming HPFSC.
6/28/14	HPA Board meeting to discuss status and provide input for HPFSC.
6/30/14	TC with Chief Marinelli to discuss HPFSC.
7/15/14	Attend SD County Fire Safe Council meeting to gather information and meet Council participants.
7/23/14	Tour North Peak proposed emergency egress route. Draft report to HPA.
7/24/14	Meet with Lee McComb, Surveyor Re. exit route and Community overview.
7/28/14	TC with Dianne Jacob office, Photo Geodetic and SD County GIS Re. maps.
7/30/14	Meeting with Mike Ing, Photo Geodetic to obtain maps of HPFSC area. Meeting with Ann Baldrige Re. area to be covered in HPFSC.
8/30/14	HPA Board meeting with status report and input.
8/31/14	Received memo from Cal Fire Julian Batt. Chief, Carl Schwettmann offering assistance.
9/1/14	Developed and sent report to HPA Board.
9/6/14	Meeting with B.C. Schwettmann to discuss HPFSC, CWPP and publications etc. available for distribution to residents.
9/8/14	TC with Chief Marinelli Re. HPFSC, CWPP. TC with David Fitz Re. Locked Gates on proposed emergency egress route.
9/10/14	Finalize first draft of CWPP and distribute to HPA Board.
9/15/14	Meet with Chief Marinelli at his office to discuss status of CWPP.
9/16/14	Attend SDCFSC meeting in Lakeside to discuss CWPP development.
10/14/14	Received information on residences and structures within proposed HPFSC area.
10/15/14	Correlated property information for CWPP.

10/16/14	Attended Cal Fire Grant meeting in San Marcos to gather information.
10/18/14	Met with Surveyor McComb to review proposed emergency egress routes.
10//20/14	Surveyed possible emergency egress routes and street signage within HP.
10/21/14	Continued survey and met with HPA President to discuss status of CWPP and review Grant information.
10/22/14	Finalize revised draft of CWPP and submit CWPP to Ann Baldrige.
10/25/14	HPA Board meeting to discuss status of CWPP and obtain input.
10/30/14	Received comments from Ann B. discussed with Ann and revised CWPP per comments.
11/18/14	Attended SDCFSC meeting for input.
12/14/14	Annual meeting of Harrison Park Assoc. Members. Provided report and received feedback on CWPP.
1/10/15	Completed final draft of CWPP and distributed to HPA.
1/12/15	Submitted final Draft SWPP to Ann B. on line.
1/20/15	Attended SDCFSC meeting at County Admin. Center. Discussed CWPP.
2/2/15	Traveled Emergency Egress route for mileage and signage necessary.
2/3/15	Revised Emergency Egress Route package and included in CWPP Appendix.

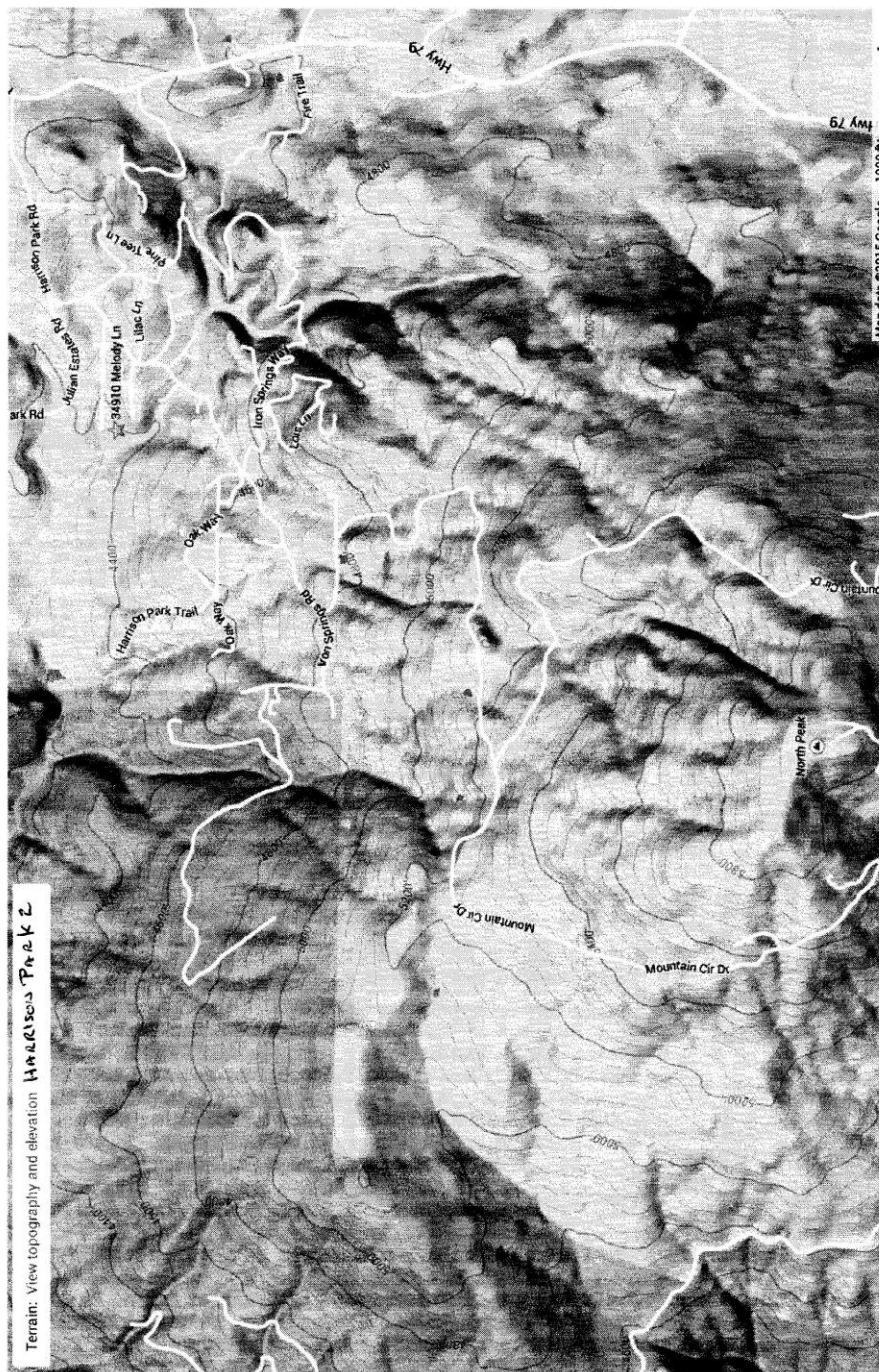
Appendix C: Maps

Map 1, Area of Harrison Park Fire Safe Council

Map 2, Topographic view of Harrison Park and North Peak



Map 1,
 N ←-----
 Harrison Park. Area of Fire Safe Council (Approx. 2 sq.mi.)
 Highway 79 at top of map



N ← -----

Map 2, Harrison Park Topographical Area.
Highway 79 at top of map. North Peak at right center.

Appendix D

Amendments

Priority #1, Harrison Park Fire Emergency Evacuation Route

The single access/egress road into and out of Harrison Park and the “DEAD END” sign posted at the intersection of Harrison Park Road and Hwy 79 are deterrents to fire department response. They are also serious impediments to emergency evacuation. The most available, alternate route is over North Peak, south of Harrison Park. The North Peak Home owners Association residential area is a gated community. Their gates “should be open during fire emergencies”. The proposed evacuation route is one of the routes that provide access and egress to North Peak residents. It is necessary to determine who is responsible for opening the gates in emergencies. The route is as follows:

From the intersection of Iron Springs Rd. and Birdsell Rd. turn south onto Birdsell Rd. and continue for about 0.1 mile to its intersection with Birdsell Lane. Continue right on Birdsell Rd. thru the gate, (this gate should be open during fire emergencies), for approximately 1.0 mile to its intersection with Mountain Circle Rd. Take a hard left turn onto Mountain Circle Rd. (it is Gravel for approximately 0.5 mile then becomes Blacktop) and continue on Mountain Circle Rd. for approximately 1.6 miles to the Exit Gate, (the gate will open automatically). Go through the gate a short distance to the intersection with North Peak Rd. Turn left and continue on North Peak Rd. for approximately 1.5 miles to Engineers Rd. Turn left and continue to Hwy. 79 then right toward I-8 and San Diego.

Signage:

This requires a minimum of 5 signs with information and directional arrows;

2- At the intersection of Iron Springs Rd. and Birdsell Rd. (one from each direction). (L & R)

1- At the intersection of Birdsell Rd. and Birdsell Ln. (R)

1- At the intersection of Birdsell Rd. and Mountain Circle Road. (L)

1- At the intersection of Mountain Circle Rd. and North Peak Rd. (L)

TO DO

Contact North Peak “HOA” to determine an agreeable gate unlocking criteria.

Obtain agreement on road use and proposed signage.

Design signage and identify source and funding for signage and installation.

Set Target date for installation and completion.

Addendum

Authors Contact Information

The following individual gives limited permission to be contacted regarding content of the CWPP by authorized representatives of CAL FIRE, local fire authorities, signatories, or employees of the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County or the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County.


Charles W. Van Rickley
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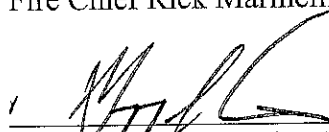
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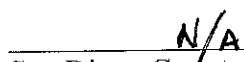
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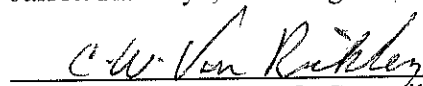
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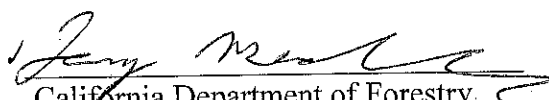
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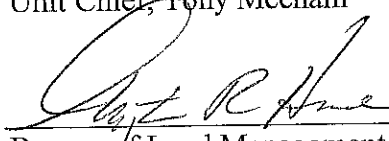

Julian Cuyamaca Fire Protection
District
Fire Chief Rick Marinelli

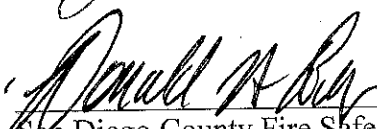

San Diego County Fire Authority
Greg Schreiner, Fire Marshall



San Diego County, Planning and
Development Services.
Jarrett Ramalya, Planning Manager


Harrison Park Fire Safe Council
Charles Van Rickley, Coordinator


California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection
Unit Chief, Tony Mecham


Bureau of Land Management
Clay Howe


San Diego County Fire Safe Council
Don Butz, President


Harrison Park Association
Terry Curren, President