RESOLUTIONS ADVISING THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO CONCERNING ACTION TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK AND IMPROVE EVACUATION IN CREST, DEHESA, GRANITE HILLS AND HARBISON CANYON

Summary of the package

The resolutions in this package focus on integrating wildfire resilience into our community planning efforts and advising the County of San Diego on improving wildfire safety in the subregion.

These resolutions emphasize the importance of proactive measures such as creating defensible space around properties, implementing fire-resistant building materials and landscaping practices, enhancing emergency evacuation routes, and fostering community education on wildfire preparedness. These steps are necessary to mitigate the risk of wildfires to protect lives and properties and ensure the long-term sustainability and safety of our community. By prioritizing wildfire resilience, we can reduce potential damage, improve response times, and create a more resilient and informed community.

Taken together, the resolutions in this package include the following in the course of advising the county:

- **Wildfire Risk Reduction and Vegetation Management**
    - **Reduction of Wildfire Susceptibility**: Advocating for policies to reduce vegetation density and manage fuel loads.
    - **Fuel Breaks**: Establishing and maintaining fuel breaks along key roads such as La Cresta Road, Suncrest Truck Trail, Harbison Canyon Road, Dehesa Road, Willow Glen Drive, and Mountain View Road.
- **Evacuation and Emergency Response**
    - **Evacuation Route Improvements**: Recommending urgent action to enhance Suncrest Truck Trail to function as a 24/7 all-weather evacuation route.
    - **Additional Capacity Needs**: Improving Suncrest Truck Trail and ensuring other routes are sufficient for evacuation and emergency vehicle access.
    - **Signage and Coordination**: Placing appropriate signage on evacuation routes and coordinating with fire and law enforcement agencies.
- **Building and Land Use Regulations**
    - **Fire-Resistant Building Materials**: Promoting the use of fire-resistant building materials and practices including defensible space around structures.
    - **New Developments**: Recommending requiring new developments to clear vegetation, use Class A fire-rated roofing materials, install ember-resistant vents, and use tempered glass.
    - **Land Use Planning**: Integrating wildfire risk reduction into all land use decisions and planning activities.

- **Community Engagement and Education**
    - **Firewise Communities**: Encouraging communities to become recognized Firewise USA communities.
    - **Public Education**: Initiating public education campaigns on wildfire risks and preparedness.
    - **Community Events**: Holding public events annually to provide information on defensible space, home hardening, and evacuation procedures.
- **Resource Management and Coordination**
    - **Comprehensive Fuel Load Assessment**: Conducting thorough assessments of current fuel loads and identifying critical areas.
    - **Coordination with Property Owners**: Enhancing coordination with surrounding property owners and communities to manage vegetation.

SUMMARY OF EACH RESOLUTION

Resolution 1: Establishing Wildfire Risk Reduction as the Top Policy Priority

This resolution establishes wildfire risk reduction as the top policy priority for the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group. Given that the subregion is identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as having a higher risk of wildfire than 94% to 100% of communities in America, it is imperative to implement proactive measures to minimize wildfire susceptibility. The resolution calls for initiatives such as reducing vegetation density, promoting fire-resistant building materials, enhancing evacuation routes, and integrating wildfire risk reduction into all land use decisions. This focus is necessary to protect lives, property, and the natural environment from the devastating impact of wildfires.

Resolution 2: Advising the County of San Diego on Immediate Action on Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation

This resolution advises immediate action to improve wildfire preparedness and evacuation routes, particularly emphasizing the urgent need to enhance Suncrest Truck Trail as a reliable all-weather evacuation route. The communities of Crest, Harbison Canyon, Dehesa, and Granite Hills face significant wildfire risks, with limited evacuation options. Enhancing Suncrest Truck Trail and securing necessary easements from property owners are critical steps to ensure safe and efficient evacuations during emergencies. This resolution is necessary to address the imminent threat posed by inadequate evacuation routes, which could endanger lives and exacerbate the impact of wildfires.

Resolution 3: Advising the County of San Diego to Update the Community Plan, and Authorize a Major Update

This resolution advises the county to begin an update of the Community plan and proposes revisions, incorporating recommendations from a comprehensive review of wildfire risk, land use, and transportation capacity. The updates aim to enhance wildfire resilience, improve evacuation capacity, and ensure community safety. Key revisions include establishing fuel breaks, improving evacuation routes, and integrating fire-resistant building requirements. The resolution is necessary to ensure that the Community Plan reflects the latest best practices in wildfire management and addresses the subregion's heightened vulnerability to wildfires.

Resolution 4: Advising the County of San Diego to Update the Resource Management Plan for Stoneridge County Preserve and Take Immediate Action to Reduce Wildfire Risk

This resolution advises the County of San Diego to update the Resource Management Plan for Stoneridge County Preserve to reduce fire risk. Given the preserve is classified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, the resolution recommends conducting a comprehensive fuel load assessment, expanding fuel modification zones, and implementing regular maintenance and monitoring. It also calls for enhancing coordination with surrounding communities and updating fire management practices. This resolution is necessary to address the increasing intensity and frequency of wildfires and to protect both natural resources and the safety of surrounding communities.

Resolution 5: Commending Fire Agencies

This resolution expresses gratitude to the representatives and personnel of the San Miguel Fire Protection District, CalFire, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office for their expertise and dedication to wildfire resilience. These agencies have provided valuable advice and recommendations to the Planning Group, demonstrating unwavering commitment and bravery in protecting the community from wildfires. The resolution is necessary to acknowledge and appreciate the critical support and guidance these agencies provide in enhancing wildfire resilience and ensuring community safety.

Resolution 6: Commending the Crest Fire Safe Council

This resolution commends the Crest Fire Safe Council and the Crest Community Association for their exceptional dedication to developing and updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, providing public education on wildfire issues, and implementing programs to reduce wildfire risk. The leaders of the Fire Safe Council have shown outstanding commitment and leadership in enhancing community safety and preparedness. This resolution is necessary to recognize and appreciate the significant contributions of these organizations in mitigating wildfire risks and fostering a culture of safety and resilience.

Resolution 7: Advising the County of San Diego to Encourage Communities to Become Firewise USA Communities

This resolution advises the County of San Diego to encourage communities to become recognized Firewise USA communities, a program managed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Participation in the Firewise USA program helps communities assess wildfire risks, develop action plans, and implement measures to reduce those risks. The resolution highlights the benefits of being a Firewise USA community, such as enhanced safety, community engagement, access to resources, and potential insurance benefits. This resolution is necessary to promote proactive community-level initiatives that enhance wildfire resilience and reduce the risk of wildfire damage.

RESOLUTION 1

Resolution Establishing Wildfire Risk Reduction as the Top Policy Priority

WHEREAS, the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group (the "Planning Group") advises the County of San Diego on planning, land use, transportation, and related issues; and

WHEREAS, the subregion covered by the Planning Group is identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as being at higher risk of wildfire than 94% - 100% of communities in America; and

WHEREAS, wildfires pose a significant and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and property of the residents within our community; and

WHEREAS, the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in California have contributed to an insurance crisis, causing many homeowners in the subregion to lose their homeowners' insurance or face skyrocketing premium

WHEREAS, the Planning Group recognizes the urgent need to implement measures to reduce the susceptibility of our subregion to wildfires, to minimize the probability of wildfire spread, and to lower the exposure of the population and structures to wildfire risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group hereby establishes wildfire risk reduction as its top policy priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Group shall pursue the following objectives advising the County of San Diego to achieve this priority:

1. **Reduction of Wildfire Susceptibility:**
    - Advocate for and support policies and initiatives aimed at reducing vegetation density and managing fuel loads.
    - Promote community-wide adoption of fire-resistant building materials and practices, including the creation of defensible space around structures.
    - Collaborate with county, state and federal agencies to secure funding and technical assistance for wildfire prevention and mitigation projects.
2. **Enhancement of Evacuation and Emergency Response Capabilities:**
    - Work with local, county, and state transportation authorities to identify and implement measures to increase transportation capacity, ensuring the safe and efficient evacuation of the entire population in the event of a wildfire.
    - Ensure that evacuation routes are appropriately marked, well-maintained, and free of obstructions to facilitate rapid and orderly evacuations.
    - Support the development and implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans covering the entire subregion.

- Coordinate planning with emergency services to ensure that fire and other emergency vehicles have unimpeded access to all areas of the subregion during wildfire events.

3. **Community Education and Engagement:**
    - Initiate and support public education efforts to raise awareness about wildfire risks and promote proactive measures residents can take to protect their homes and families.
    - Organize and participate in community meetings and other authorized events focused on wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery.
    - Encourage the formation of neighborhood-based wildfire preparedness groups to foster local resilience and mutual aid during emergencies through the Firewise communities program.
4. **Integration of Wildfire Risk Reduction into Land Use Planning:**
    - Ensure that all land use decisions and planning activities consider and prioritize wildfire risk reduction.
    - Advocate for zoning and development regulations that promote the use of fire-resistant landscaping and building practices.
5. **Collaboration and Advocacy:**
    - Foster partnerships with neighboring communities, regional organizations, and governmental agencies to share resources, information, and best practices related to wildfire risk reduction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Group shall regularly review and update its wildfire risk reduction advice to reflect conditions on the ground, the latest scientific research, technological advancements, and best practices in wildfire management.

Submitted by: Ron Nehring, Tim Lucas

Passed by the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group:

September 9, 2024

RESOLUTION 2

Advising the County of San Diego to Take Urgent Action on Wildfire Safety in Crest, Harbison Canyon, Dehesa, and Granite Hills

Whereas**,**

1. The communities of Crest, Dehesa, Harbison Canyon and Granite Hills, face a significant wildfire risk, with statistics from the US Department of Agriculture indicating these areas have a greater fire risk and likelihood than 100% of communities in the United States. Particularly, Granite Hills faces a higher risk than 94% of communities nationwide.

2. Recognizing the critical need for proactive measures to mitigate the devastating impact of wildfires, it is imperative that wildfire risk reduction and evacuation planning be prioritized in further updates to the Community Plan.

3. The community of Crest, situated in a topographically challenging region, relies heavily on a single evacuation route, La Cresta Road, to the west. Mountain View Road is a potential alternative evacuation route to the east. Historical data reveals that most wildfires affecting the area have approached from the east, rendering Mountain View Road vulnerable and La Cresta Road alone insufficient.

4. While commendable efforts have been made by CalFire to improve Suncrest Truck Trail as an alternate evacuation route, including grading and brush clearance, its current condition limits its use to dire emergency situations. Urgent action is required to enhance Suncrest Truck Trail to function effectively as a 24/7, 365-day, all-weather evacuation route available to the incident commander.

5. Despite progress in securing voluntary easements from the majority of residents along Suncrest Truck Trail, challenges persist with some property owners remaining inaccessible or unwilling to provide the voluntary easements requested by the County. According to fire agencies, these voluntary easements are crucial for facilitating improvements and accessing state funding for vital infrastructure enhancements.

6. County of San Diego Policy I-1 states, "The planning or sponsor group shall advise the Director of Planning & Development Services, the Zoning Administrator, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors in the implementation of the adopted community or subregional plan."

7. The current Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Plan (2011) states:

   Section 2.1 Integrated Mobility and Access (Page 23): "A road network that complements the natural beauty and rural atmosphere of the community with properly maintained public paved and unpaved roads within the Crest, Dehesa, and Harbison Canyon Rural Villages."

   Section 2.3 Fire Access/Egress Routes (Page 23): "The swift completion of an alternate route out of Crest remains a high priority. Several fires in recent years near the present exit from Crest have underscored the potentially tragic consequences of the current situation."

Policy CM 3.1.1 (Page 23): "Designate Suncrest (SC1960) as an emergency fire access road with a locked gate."

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group exercising its responsibility under County of San Diego Policy I-1 to advise the County on the implementation of the Community Plan:

1. Advises the County of San Diego to recognize the imminent threat posed by inadequate evacuation routes in the subregion and take decisive action to address this critical vulnerability. In the event of a catastrophic wildfire, the current evacuation routes, particularly La Cresta Road, may prove insufficient, endangering lives and potentially exacerbating the impact of future wildfire.

2. Advises the County of San Diego to expedite and prioritize all necessary measures for the enhancement of **Suncrest Truck Trail** as a reliable alternate evacuation route for the Crest region. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated, and every effort must be made to ensure Suncrest Truck Trail is capable of accommodating evacuations under any circumstance, including adverse weather conditions and wildfire threats from the east.

3. Advises the County of San Diego to leverage all available resources and authority to secure the support of property owners within the subregion to cooperate in granting the required voluntary easements for **Suncrest Truck Trail** improvements, and in the event this is not achieved, to take actions necessary to secure the improvements of this road to meet wildfire evacuation needs.

4. Advises the County of San Diego to place wildfire safety at the center of planning for the community in the forthcoming update of the Community Plan. Given the region's heightened wildfire risk and historical vulnerabilities, integrating robust wildfire mitigation and preparedness measures into the Community Plan is paramount to safeguarding lives, property, and natural resources. Urgency is paramount as delays in addressing wildfire safety concerns may exacerbate the risks faced by residents and hinder effective emergency response efforts.

5. Advises the County of San Diego to collaborate with relevant property owners, including government agencies controlling land in the subregion, to promote wildfire risk reduction measures, including adherence to the State of California’s Defensible Space guidelines, increasing vegetation management, and the reduction of accumulated fuel. Effective wildfire prevention and mitigation strategies are essential for safeguarding lives, property, and natural resources in the Crest, Harbison Canyon, Dehesa, and Granite Hills communities.

Submitted by: Ron Nehring, Tim Lucas

Passed by the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group:

September 9, 2024

RESOLUTION 3

Advising the County of San Diego to Update the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Plan and Authorize a Major Update

WHEREAS, the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group (the "Planning Group") advises the County of San Diego on planning, land use, transportation, and related issues; and

WHEREAS, the Community Plan for Crest Dehesa Harbison Canyon and Granite Hills was last updated on August 3, 2011, and is now overdue for a major revision and update; and

WHEREAS, the Community Plan for Crest Dehesa Harbison Canyon and Granite Hills is subject to annual review:

> *"Implementation of the Plan should be monitored on a periodic basis by the County and the Community Planning/Sponsor Group for progress towards its implementation.* ***For compliance with State law, the Plan shall be reviewed no less than once annually*** *so that its implementation status may be included in the County's Annual General Plan Report to the State.* ***The annual review provides the opportunity for the Plan to be updated and amended, as appropriate, to reflect changes in the community vision, conditions or attitudes.****" (emphasis added)*
>
> *Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Plan,* Page 3

WHEREAS, the Planning Group has undertaken a comprehensive review of wildfire risk, land use as it relates to wildfire, and transportation capacity including for evacuation purposes, in consultation with multiple fire agencies, the Crest Fire Safe Council, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to the Community Plan reflect the findings and recommendations from this comprehensive review and aim to enhance wildfire resilience, improve evacuation capacity, and ensure community safety;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group requests the County Board of Supervisors to authorize the initiation of a major revision of the Community Plan for the subregion;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group hereby adopts the attached proposed revisions to the Community Plan for the County's consideration in a Community Plan update.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if there is to be a delay in the allocation of staff resources and funding for the updating process, we request that these proposed important updates to the Crest, Dehesa, Haribison Canyon and Granite Hills Community Plan regarding wildfire safety be amended into the current plan immediately, to enhance the safety of the community and provide an accurate informational resource easily accessible to members of the community.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE CREST DEHESA GRANITE HILLS HARBISON CANYON COMMUNITY PLAN FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

UPDATE TO "COMMUNITY BACKGROUND" Section (F) Fire Safety

Community Background Section (F) is stricken and replaced with the following:

WILDFIRE RISK

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the entire subregion currently ranks among the highest for wildfire risk. The Department ranks Crest, Harbison Canyon, and Dehesa as having a higher probability of wildfire than 100% of communities in America, while Granite Hills is at 94%.

Contributing Factors:

- **Vegetation:** The presence of large swaths of living and accumulated dead brush and other forms of fuel significantly increases the wildfire risk. This includes dense chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and eucalyptus groves.

- **Climate:** The dry climate, coupled with seasonal Santa Ana wind conditions, exacerbates the wildfire risk. These winds can cause fires to spread rapidly and unpredictably.

- **Topography:** The subregion's rugged terrain, including steep mountains, deep canyons, and narrow ridges, creates natural fire corridors that can facilitate the spread of wildfires.

- **Public Lands:** The subregion is dominated by public lands with high fuel loads, which are often difficult to manage and maintain.

FIRE HISTORY

The subregion has experienced numerous catastrophic wildfires resulting in significant property destruction and loss of life. Notable incidents include:

- **Laguna Fire (1970):** This devastating fire burned over 175,000 acres, destroyed hundreds of homes, and resulted in significant environmental damage.

- **Cedar Fire (2003):** One of the largest wildfires in California's history, the Cedar Fire burned over 273,000 acres, destroyed 2,820 buildings, and caused 15 fatalities. The subregion was heavily impacted, with extensive damage to properties and infrastructure.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection in the subregion is provided by multiple agencies:

- **San Miguel Fire Protection District:** Serves the communities of Crest and Granite Hills.

    - Crest: San Miguel Fire District Station 18, 1811 Suncrest Blvd.
    - Granite Hills: San Miguel Fire District Station 23, 2140 Dehesa Road.

- **San Diego County Fire Protection District:** Serves Dehesa and Harbison Canyon through its contract with CalFire.
    - Harbison Canyon: San Diego County Fire Station 24, 551 Harbison Canyon Road.

- **Sycuan Fire Department:** Provides additional fire protection services in the area.
    - Sycuan Fire Department, 5449 Sycuan Road.

Local fire agencies are responsible for structure fires, while CalFire is the lead agency for wildland fires. The community of Crest, in particular, is surrounded by state and county-controlled open land part of which CalFire manages and protects with the assistance of local government fire agencies.

EVACUATION ROUTES

Crest:

Primary and Alternate Routes: La Cresta Road to the west and Mountain View Road to the east.

Additional Capacity Needs: In the event of a catastrophic wildfire, especially when fire is approaching from the east, these routes may be insufficient for the evacuation of all residents and the simultaneous movement of emergency vehicles. Consequently, additional surface capacity is necessary:

Suncrest Truck Trail: Must be improved to serve as an alternative evacuation route. It requires immediate and significant improvements to qualify as a 24/7, 365, all-weather route capable of moving residents in vehicles of all types to safety.

Harbison Canyon:

Evacuation Routes: Primary route is via Harbison Canyon Road to the north and south.

Dehesa:

Evacuation Routes: Can be via Harbison Canyon Road to the north, and Dehesa Road to the east and west.

Granite Hills:

Evacuation Routes are to be determined through an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the area.

<u>LAW ENFORCEMENT</u>

Service is provided to the Subregion out of the Sheriff's substations in Santee, Lakeside, and Alpine. The response time for priority calls throughout the Subregion is about 13 minutes, and for non-priority calls the response time ranges from between 20 and 30 minutes. In addition to the Sheriff presence in the Dehesa Valley, the Sycuan Tribal Police patrol several miles of public roads

through the area in coordination with the County Sherriff's Department and California Highway Patrol.

UPDATE TO SECTION 2.3 FIRE ACCESS/EGRESS ROUTES

Section 2.3 of the Community Plan concerning Fire Access/Egress routes is stricken and replaced with the following:

2.3 Fire access and evacuation

Issue CM 3.1. Under catastrophic wildfire conditions, the subregion may lack satisfactory capacity to provide for rapid and orderly evacuation of the entire population. Comprehensive action must be taken to improve capacity to provide for both evacuation and the movement of fire equipment in the event of wildfire.

La Cresta Road currently serves as the only westerly evacuation route for the communities of Crest and Harbison Canyon. Events of 2003 demonstrated this route is insufficient to facilitate the rapid evacuation of all residents of Crest, plus westbound evacuation traffic from Harbison Canyon, Dehesa, and the surrounding area.

Suncrest Truck Trail is a private road originating in Crest, descending to the west into the city of El Cajon where multiple connections to other transportation arteries exist. The County of San Diego has secured voluntary easements from the majority of, but not all, property owners onto whose land this road exists.

Goal CM 3.1. A circulation system providing for the rapid evacuation of residents and vehicles, and the simultaneous movement of emergency vehicles to and from all areas of the subregion at all times.

Policy CM 3.1.1. Reducing the probability and severity of wildfire in the subregion, while improving capacity for evacuation and access by emergency vehicles during emergencies shall be the leading priority for transportation and land use planning in this subregion.

Policy CM 3.1.2. Suncrest Truck Trail (STT) is to be improved and upgraded to qualify as an alternative evacuation route for westbound evacuation of affected residents in the event of wildfire.

Improvements to STT are critical to allow it to serve as a <u>24/7, 365, all weather, all condition option for evacuation and/or the movement of fire equipment, at the discretion of the incident commander in the event of wildfire.</u>

Signage indicating the starting point of Suncrest Truck Trail to be placed at locations in the community in consultation with fire and law enforcement agencies.

Policy CM 3.1.3. Require any development extending Eucalyptus Street to provide an emergency fire access road to Dehesa Road to provide additional emergency access.

UPDATE TO SECTION 4 (SAFETY)

Section 4.1 of the Community Plan is stricken and replaced with the following.

4. Safety (S)

4.1 Wildland Fire/Urban Fire

Issue S 1.1. Most of the subregion is classified as "very high" risk for wildfire likelihood, risk to homes, exposure and vulnerable populations according to an assessment by the US Department of Agriculture (www.wildfirerisk.org). Over 200 homes in the subregion were destroyed in the 1970 Mount Laguna Fire, and over 600 homes were destroyed in the subregion in the 2003 Cedar Fire.

The subregion's relatively recent experience with the 2003 Cedar Fire highlighted the lack of sufficient evacuation routes available in multiple communities within the subregion, including Crest, Harbison Canyon and Dehesa.

GOAL S 1.1. To minimize life and property loss from wildfire, the potential for which is significant in the subregion.

Policy S 1.1.1. Require new development utilizing imported water to provide infrastructure for fire suppression, such as pipes and hydrants, in accordance with prevailing standards.

EDITED Policy S 1.1.2. Require new developments to comply with the following:

(1) Vegetation cleared and landscaped with fire resistant plant materials (from between 30 and 100 feet (or more if deemed necessary by the community plan or local fire officials) around structures depending upon the location and orientation of the structures to prevent erosion.

(2) Require the use of Class A fire-rated roofing materials and non-combustible siding for all new construction and major renovations.

(3) Design features, such as balconies and eaves, be constructed of appropriate fire-resistant material. (Formerly Safety Policy 2)

(4) Require the installation of ember-resistant vents and the use of tempered glass in all windows for new constructions and major renovations.

New Policy S 1.1.3: Fuel Breaks Along Key Roads. Establish and maintain fuel breaks along the following key roads:

- **La Cresta Road:** Clear 50-100 feet of vegetation on both sides.
- **Suncrest Truck Trail:** Clear 50-100 feet of vegetation on both sides.
- **Harbison Canyon Road:** Clear 50-100 feet of vegetation on both sides.
- **Dehesa Road:** Clear 50-100 feet of vegetation on both sides, especially near intersections.
- **Willow Glen Drive:** Clear 50-100 feet of vegetation on both sides.
- **Mountain View Road:** Clear 50-100 feet of vegetation on both sides.

New Policy S 1.1.3.2: Establish a regular maintenance schedule for these fuel breaks to ensure they remain effective year-round.

NEW Policy S 1.1.4. Reduction of fuel in the form of live or dead brush, and other combustible materials, from areas adjacent to property boundaries where not already required by state law or county ordinance, to impede the spread of wildfire to populated communities of the subregion.

NEW Policy S 1.1.5. Robust fire breaks to inhibit the spread of wildfire within the subregion, including but not limited to areas (1) surrounding the community of Crest, (2) directly east and west of Harbison Canyon Road, and (3) throughout the subregion as necessary.

NEW Policy S 1.1.6. All communities within the subregion to be covered by a local Fire Safe Council, and become Firewise USA site through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

NEW Policy S 1.1.7. The Planning Group, in cooperation with local fire officials and law enforcement, shall hold a minimum of one public event each year to provide members of community with information concerning defensible space, home hardening, procedures for evacuation in the event of wildfire, the importance of compliance with rules concerning the display of house numbers, and related issues.

NEW Policy S 1.1.8.1: Implement in cooperation with local fire agencies and Fire Safe Councils an annual program for the removal of dead and dying trees and shrubs, specifically targeting areas with dense chaparral and coastal sage scrub.

NEW Policy S 1.1.8.2: Establish in cooperation with local Fire Safe Councils and fire agencies an annual wildfire preparedness drill focusing on evacuation procedures and home hardening techniques.

NEW Policy S 1.1.9.3: Develop and distribute in cooperation with local Fire Safe Councils and fire agencies detailed evacuation maps and plans to all residents, with specific instructions for those living in high-risk areas.

[Previous policy 1.1.3 concerning a new street numbering system for Crest is deleted.]

Submitted by: Ron Nehring, Tim Lucas

Passed by the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group:

September 9, 2024

RESOLUTION 4

Advising the County of San Diego to Update the Resource Management Plan for Stoneridge County Preserve and Take Immediate Action to Reduce Fire Risk

WHEREAS, the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group has reviewed the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Stoneridge County Preserve, prepared in June 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Stoneridge County Preserve was classified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (FRAP 2012) at the time the RMP was written; and

WHEREAS, the region has experienced significant wildfire activity, including the Laguna Fire in 1970 and the Cedar Fire in 2003, highlighting the importance of effective fire management strategies; and

WHEREAS, the current RMP indicates that there were no official fuel modification zones within the preserve, and some unapproved clearing had occurred adjacent to residential areas along the eastern boundary, necessitating a more structured and comprehensive approach to fuel management; and

WHEREAS, the plan included directives for creating fuel modification zones adjacent to residential structures within 100 feet of the preserve's boundary, maintaining dirt trails for emergency access, and coordinating with local fire protection districts, but these measures require enhancement to address the increasing intensity and frequency of wildfires in California;

WHEREAS, members of the Planning Group conducted a thorough site visit together with representatives of CalFire, the San Miguel Fire Protection District, the Crest Fire Safe Council and interested parties on June 5, 2024 and found the fire mitigation measures outlined in the current RMP have not been implemented, including failure to maintain trails and access routes, failure to implement fuel modification zones adjacent to residences, and failure to coordinate with fire agencies concerning reducing the fire risk posed by the Preserve in its current state;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Planning Group advises the County of San Diego to take immediate and urgent action to reduce the fire risk posed by the current state of this Preserve by fully implementing all fire mitigation actions prescribed by the current RMP, and to coordinate with the San Miguel Fire Protection District and CalFire concerning additional steps, including but not limited to the creation of fire breaks, to substantially reduce the wildfire risk posed by the Preserve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group advises the County of San Diego to initiate an update of the Stoneridge County Preserve Resource Management Plan with a focus on the following:

1. **Comprehensive Fuel Load Assessment**: Conduct a thorough assessment of the current fuel load, including live and dead brush, and identify critical areas that require immediate attention.

2. **Expansion of Fuel Modification Zones**: Establish and maintain fuel modification zones beyond the current 100 feet boundary where necessary, especially in areas adjacent to residential communities.
3. **Regular Maintenance and Monitoring**: Implement a schedule for regular maintenance and monitoring of these zones to prevent the accumulation of hazardous fuel.
4. **Community Coordination**: Enhance coordination with surrounding property owners and communities to manage vegetation and reduce the spread of invasive, non-native plants that contribute to fuel load.
5. **Update Fire Management Practices**: Review and update fire management practices and response plans in collaboration with local fire protection districts to ensure they are up-to-date and reflect current best practices.
6. **Creation of a Fire Break**: Establish a fire break between Crest and Harbison Canyon to protect both communities from the spread of wildfires.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group advises the County of San Diego to prioritize the protection of natural resources within the Stoneridge County Preserve and the safety of the surrounding communities by implementing these proactive measures to reduce wildfire risks.

Submitted by: Ron Nehring, Tim Lucas

Passed by the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group:

September 9, 2024

RESOLUTION 5

Resolution of the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group Expressing Gratitude to the Representatives and Personnel of the San Miguel Fire Protection District, CalFire, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office

WHEREAS, the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group (the "Planning Group") recognizes the critical importance of wildfire resilience and the safety of our community members; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the San Miguel Fire Protection District, CalFire, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office have taken the time to consult with members of the Planning Group to provide valuable advice and recommendations on strengthening wildfire resilience in our subregion; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the San Miguel Fire Protection District, CalFire, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office consistently demonstrate unwavering commitment, dedication, and bravery in their efforts to protect our community from the dangers of wildfires and other emergencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group hereby expresses its gratitude to the representatives of the San Miguel Fire Protection District, CalFire, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office for their expertise, time, and dedication in advising the Planning Group on wildfire resilience measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Group extends its deepest appreciation to the men and women of the San Miguel Fire Protection District, CalFire, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office for their steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of our community members. Their tireless efforts, courage, and professionalism are invaluable to the protection of our community.

Submitted by: Ron Nehring, Tim Lucas

Passed by the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group:

September 9, 2024

RESOLUTION 6

Resolution of the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group Expressing Gratitude to the Crest Fire Safe Council and the Crest Community Association

WHEREAS, the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group (the "Planning Group") acknowledges the significant threat posed by wildfires to our community and the necessity of proactive measures to enhance wildfire resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Crest Fire Safe Council has demonstrated exceptional dedication over decades to developing and updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, providing vital public education on wildfire issues, and implementing programs aimed at reducing wildfire risk in the community of Crest; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the Crest Fire Safe Council, Kandhy Franklin and Kathy Fiedor, have shown outstanding commitment and leadership over the years, greatly contributing to the safety and preparedness of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Crest Community Association has shown a steadfast commitment to public education on wildfire prevention and has been a strong supporter of the efforts of both the Planning Group and the Crest Fire Safe Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group hereby expresses its gratitude to the Crest Fire Safe Council for their outstanding work in developing the updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan, dedication to public education on wildfire issues, and ongoing programs to mitigate wildfire risk in our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Group specifically recognizes and Crest Fire Safe Council co-founders Kandhy Franklin and Kathy Fiedor for their decades-long commitment and exceptional leadership in advancing the goals of the Crest Fire Safe Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Group commends the Crest Community Association for its commitment to public education on wildfire and for its support of the Planning Group and the Crest Fire Safe Council in their efforts to protect and enhance the safety of our community.

Submitted by: Ron Nehring, Tim Lucas

Passed by the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group:

September 9, 2024

RESOLUTION 7

Resolution of the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group Advising the County of San Diego to Encourage Communities to Become Firewise USA Communities

WHEREAS, the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group (the "Planning Group") advises the County of San Diego on planning, land use, transportation, and other related issues, and San Diego County is home to numerous communities that are among the most vulnerable to wildfire in the United States, with areas such as Crest, Harbison Canyon, and Dehesa ranking higher in wildfire risk than 100% of communities in America according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Granite Hills ranking at 94%; and

1. The Firewise USA program, managed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), provides a framework for communities to assess wildfire risks, develop action plans, and implement measures to reduce those risks, thereby improving community resilience and safety; and

2. Participation in the Firewise USA program has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of wildfire damage through proactive community engagement, risk assessment, and implementation of best practices in wildfire mitigation; and

3. Firewise USA communities benefit from improved safety, increased awareness, access to resources, strengthened community cohesion, and potential insurance benefits due to reduced wildfire risk; and

4. Organizing to become a Firewise USA community fosters a culture of safety and preparedness, encourages individual responsibility, and promotes community collaboration in wildfire risk reduction; and

5. The Planning Group has undertaken a comprehensive review of wildfire risk in the subregion, consulting with multiple fire agencies, the Crest Fire Safe Council, and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office, and recognizes the critical importance of community-level initiatives in enhancing wildfire resilience;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group advises the County of San Diego to actively encourage communities in the subregion and throughout the county to organize and become recognized Firewise USA communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Planning Group advises the County of San Diego to provide support and resources to assist communities in the process of becoming Firewise USA sites, including but not limited to educational materials, expert guidance, and facilitating connections between communities and fire safety organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Group highlights the following benefits and supporting points for communities becoming Firewise USA sites:

1. **Enhanced Safety:** Firewise USA communities are better prepared to reduce the likelihood and impact of wildfires, thereby protecting lives and properties.

2. **Community Engagement:** The program fosters community collaboration, strengthening bonds and creating a shared sense of responsibility for wildfire preparedness.
3. **Access to Resources:** Participating communities gain access to valuable resources, including expert advice, educational materials, and networking opportunities with other Firewise communities.
4. **Insurance Benefits:** Some insurance companies in California offer incentives or discounts to homeowners in recognized Firewise USA communities, acknowledging the reduced risk of wildfire damage.
5. **Proactive Risk Reduction:** The program encourages communities to take proactive measures in assessing and mitigating wildfire risks, which is essential in high-risk areas like San Diego County.
6. **Public Awareness:** Firewise USA participation increases public awareness about wildfire risks and promotes best practices for fire safety and mitigation.

Submitted by: Ron Nehring, Tim Lucas

Passed by the Crest Dehesa Granite Hills Harbison Canyon Community Planning Group:

September 9, 2024