

2024



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Community Wildfire Protection Plan

WYNOLA ESTATES FIRE SAFE COUNCIL



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Preface

What is a community wildfire protection plan?

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are *blueprints* for preparedness at the neighborhood level. They organize a community's efforts to protect itself against wildfire, and empower citizens to move in a cohesive, common direction.

Among the key goals of Wynola Estates Fire Safe Council, which was developed collaboratively by citizens, and federal, state and local management agencies, are to:

- Align with the local fire agency's cohesive pre-fire strategy, which includes educating homeowners and building understanding of wildland fire, ensuring defensible space clearing and structure hardening, safeguarding communities through fuels treatment, and protecting evacuation corridors.
- *Identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatment.*
- Recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect the community.
- Recommend measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.



Note: The CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project “activity” as defined under the “Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA.” Any actual project activities undertaken that meet this definition of project activity and are undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state, and federal environmental compliance requirements.

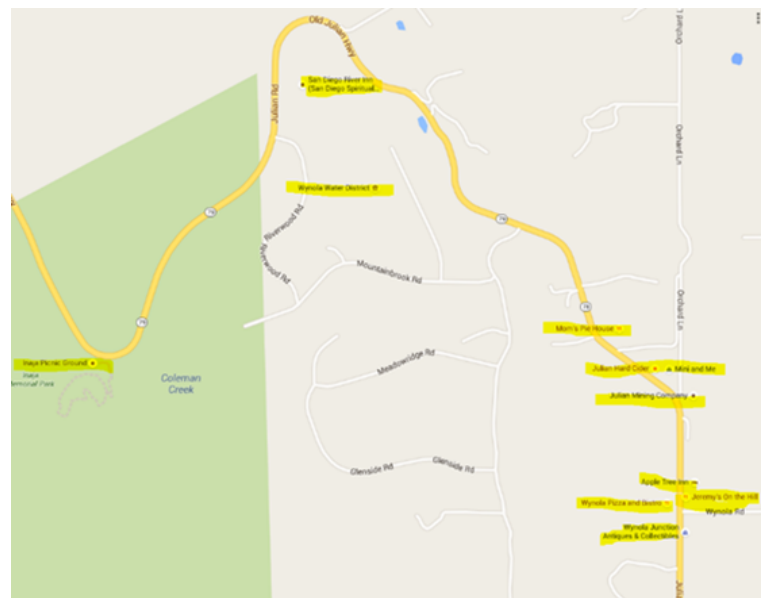
The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County produced this report in partnership with the San Diego County Fire Safe Council, which is comprised of a 15-member Board of Directors consisting of leading representatives from federal, state & local agencies and stakeholders throughout San Diego County. In accordance with the federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Snapshot of the Community

I. OVERVIEW

Wynola is an unincorporated community located in the Spencer Valley in San Diego County, California (latitude 33.098 and longitude -116.646). The elevation of Wynola is 3,645 feet. Wynola appears on the *Santa Ysabel* U.S. Geological Survey Map. Wynola Estates is a community of 86 lots (smallest 2.5 acres) with 78 homes, its own water district (Wynola Water District) and roads. Wynola Estates is situated between the Cleveland National Forest and Wynola, as well as 6 miles west of the historical town of Julian, and being a flat parcel of land with paved roads and fire hydrants, an important point from which to fight wildfire. According to the Köppen Climate Classification system, Wynola has a warm-summer Mediterranean climate.

Population: Approximately 200



II. LANDSCAPE

Topography

Wynola Estates is a community in Wynola, CA that is a designated Community At Risk and is located in a Very High Fire Severity Zone. There are 78 homes in the community and the Wynola Water District (WWD). There are an additional 75-100 homes in the surrounding area as well as numerous businesses. The community is located 7 miles West of Julian, 1 mile West of Wynola and 2 miles East of Santa Ysabel. The entire West side of the community is bordered by the sharp sloping hills of Inaja that lead down the mountain.

The intent of the Wynola Estates Fire Safe Council (WEFSC) and this CWPP is to optimize the use of scarce resources (money, people and equipment) to achieve the greatest overall fire fuel reduction and proactive wildfire defense for the community.

Fire History

2003 Cedar Fire

The Cedar is still one of the largest wildland fires in California history. The fire started 25 miles east of San Diego in the Cleveland National Forest when a hunter was lost and lit a small fire to signal for help. It quickly spread out of control. At 5:30 pm on October 25th, the fire had spread to 20 acres. By midnight, 5,500 acres were burning, then 62,000 acres were engulfed in flames by 3:00 a.m. The Cedar Fire first crossed into the city of San Diego at 6:30 in the morning on October 26th, 2003.

By the time containment was declared on October 28th, 28,676 acres within the city had burned, 335 structures were destroyed and 71 were damaged. The dollar loss was estimated at \$204 million.

Throughout the county, the Cedar Fire had killed 15 people, burned 280,278 acres and destroyed 2,820 buildings. Wynola Estates lost 2 homes on Glenside and an out building on Oakforest, along with repairs needed to decks and house siding.

1956 Inaja Fire

The Inaja Fire was a significant wildfire that occurred in northeast San Diego County, California, in 1956. The Inaja Fire was fast-moving and a highly destructive wildfire, burning approximately 43,904 acres. The fire consumed large areas of chaparral, grasslands, and oak woodlands.

One of the deadliest incidents in the history of wildland firefighting, the tragedy led to significant changes in firefighting tactics, safety protocols and training. It also brought about a greater emphasis on fire prevention and education.

In memory of the 11 fallen firefighters the Inaja Memorial was established on CA 78 consisting of a grove of oak trees, which has become a symbol of remembrance for those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Key Infrastructure

Values at risk within the community include:

- 78 private homes, 11 vacant lots
- Wynola Water District – 5 wells, 2 storage tanks – value is approximately \$12.5 Million
- Additional nearby homes and business adjacent to Wynola Estates (please see map above)
- Wynola is the site of the Spencer Valley School, a one room public elementary school built in 1905 with a student population of 30-35 children. It is the only

school in the Spencer Valley School District, founded in 1876.

Maps

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

1. Area Communities Map
2. Fire Hazard Severity map
3. Fire History (2000-2024)
4. Evacuation Map

III. FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

Everyone plays a role in protecting Wynola Estates from wildfire. Below are the primary agencies responsible for firefighting and community emergency response in the community:

- San Diego County Fire – structure and emergency medical service (EMS).
- CAL FIRE – wildland protection on public lands and state parks.
- U.S. Forest Service (Cleveland National Forest) – wildland protection of federal lands.

02

Collaboration

Strong working relationships are critical in ensuring that our communities are well-prepared. This section describes those key partners and their roles in developing this CWPP.

I. KEY PARTNERS

The Wynola Estates Fire Safe Council led the development of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), with guidance and support from several partners. The development team included representatives from the agencies described in the table below.

ORGANIZATION	ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES
Wynola Estates Fire Safe Council	Preside over WEFSC meetings, attend FSCSDC meetings and events, coordinate with public agencies, and oversee CWPP projects. Manage educational programs and website.
Wynola Estates Water District	Coordinate CWPP and WEFSC projects as they involve the Wynola Water District and its assets.

CAL FIRE / San Diego County Fire	Assist with community risk and community protection priorities, fuels treatment project areas and methods.
U.S. Forest Service	Assist with community risk and community protection priorities, fuels treatment project areas and methods.
Wynola Estates Homeowners Association	Coordinate CWPP and WEFSC projects as they involve the Wynola HOA and community homeowners.
CAL FIRE	Coordinate CWPP and WEFSC projects as they involve CAL FIRE and projects they may undertake in the areas surrounding Wynola Estates.
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Coordinate CWPP and WEFSC projects as they involve BLM projects they may undertake in the areas surrounding Wynola Estates.



Photo Credits: The Patriot Group

03

Community Engagement & Education

Understanding wildfire risk is a key building block in preventing the loss of property and life. This section discusses efforts to build awareness, starting with the individual.

I. PRIORITIES

WEFSC's educational goals include but are not limited to:

- Continually keep the WEFSC website up-to-date with educational material, CAL FIRE updates, and Red Flag conditions.
- Continuous education regarding the importance of defensible space.
- Distribution of information regarding reducing structural ignition threat.
- Community events which will include seminars, meeting and round table discussions.

is to keep community members actively involved in fire safety through awareness and education.

2. Held its first meeting about the FSC program and its importance, with handouts and guest speakers.
3. Hosted a Wildland Urban Interface training with the FSCSDC, CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire, USFS, and BLM.

II. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

Through founders' donations alone, Wynola Estates Fire Safe Council has:

1. Designed, built and populated a website (www.wefsc.com) - this website is both informational and educational. The goal



III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Expand the FSC volunteers with diverse interests, writing, advertising, websites, to allow us more self reliance and timely response.
- Developing WEFSC website in addition to existing Instagram account.
- Work with neighboring FSC in support and assistance as needed.
- Implement our neighbor helping neighbor program. This will outline who in the neighborhood has tractors, weed brush removal, chippers, share the propagation of native plants, roof and gutter clearing and other needs that a resident may not be able to afford or physically unable to complete.
- Host a “Last Chance Survival Simulation Workshop” with the Bureau of Land Management and CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire to increase knowledge about temporary refuge areas and evacuation readiness.

04

Structural Hardening

Long before a wildfire sparks, there are numerous steps that residents can take to protect their homes and other structures. This section describes some of those efforts.

I. PRIORITIES

- In addition to individual structure hardening, focus will include overall neighborhood hardening.
- Replace antiquated water system and underground piping for further neighborhood hardening in the event of a fire.

II. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

- Residential attic screen replacement - split costs with interested residents to replace. Estimated completion: Spring 2025.
- Community education through expert guest speakers on how to prevent ember intrusion through structure retrofits such as vent screening. Starting October 2024, concluding Spring 2025.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- We plan to develop projects out of our home hardening education lecture series. We would like to provide a checklist for individual residents about what should

be done to harden their space and with what priorities.

- Neighbor helping neighbor to assist where needed in individual home hardening.
- Conduct Home Ignition Zone assessments through the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County's Home Assessment Program to increase education and awareness about structural hardening.

05

Defensible Space

Creating a buffer between buildings and the grass, trees, shrubs, and other wildland areas surrounding it are essential to improving survivability. This section looks at efforts to build this key layer of protection.

I. PRIORITIES

In cooperation with the County of San Diego and other fire agency partners, the Wynola Estates CWPP supports and promotes fire safe activities and supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitability through meeting the requirements of the County of San Diego Building and Fire Code. Following is a description of structural challenges, including proposed methods of improvement and implementation. Maintaining properties with the appropriate defensible space is a key factor to protecting lives and property on the mountain.

The key focus of our program for reducing structural ignitability include:

- Increasing the distance between the fuel bed and a structure in order to lessen direct flame impingement and to reduce the likelihood that blowing embers initiate a structural fire.
 - Defensible Space around Values at Risk, specifically the 78 homes built in the community and the assets of the Wynola
- Water District (wells, pump house, storage tanks).
 - Removal of fire fuel, specifically dead tree limbs and branches which homeowners typically have after high winds and storms. Chipping dead vegetation, along with weed and brush removal are critical for fuel reduction efforts.
 - Removing flammable conduits such as fences, decks, and flower beds within the first 5 feet of structures.
 - Encourage homeowners to make fire safe improvements to their homes such as



upgrading to fire rated roofs, protecting all vents with at least 1/8th inch screening, and installing dual pane windows, preferably with wood, metal or metal-reinforced vinyl frames, to lessen the probability of fire intrusion.

- Encourage homeowners to maintain their driveways and meet the legally required access standards.

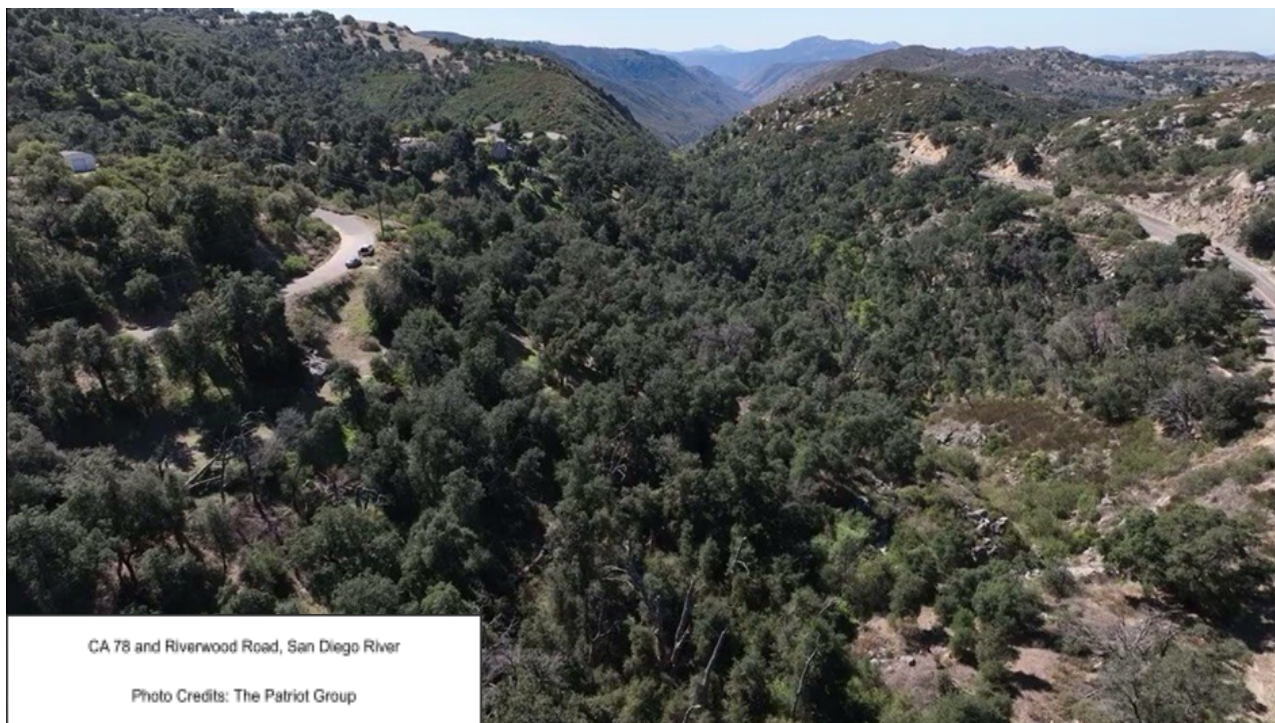
an additional 10-15% having the work done privately.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- The last two years focus has been on 100 ft of defensible space. Going forward, we will focus on the Zone 0 recommendation. Zone 0 extends 5 feet from any building, structure, or deck, creating an ember resistant zone.

II. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

- 2023 SAFE Grant offered free curbside chipping for Wynola residents. 40% of the community participated!
- 2024 SAFE Grant allowed additional roadside chipping with many residents focusing not just on the 6' ladder fuel for trees but took it up to 10'. Participations increased to over 50% participation, with



06

Fuels Treatment

Fuels are combustible materials such as grasses, leaves, plants, shrubs and trees that feed flames. This section describes efforts to treat and manage these materials in the community.

I. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

Projects ongoing adjacent to the WEFSC area:

- Inaja Memorial Grounds Maintenance:
Approximately 6 acres of brush management, removal of hazardous fuels, and chipping of removed material.
- Brushing of the Cedar Creek Road 13S11
- Pine Hills Fire Station Compound:
Approximately 6 acres that is maintained annually by mechanically removing hazardous fuels and through prescribed burning.

II. PRIORITIES

The primary goal is to prioritize projects as follows:

1. A shaded fuel break has begun separating the San Diego River Canyon and Coleman Creek from Wynola Estates. This project will also include brush clearing for residents that back up to CA-78. This barrier will give Wynola Estates and the 10 acre property butting up to the community a 3 sided fuel break. This fuel break, along with San Diego Gas and

Electric's removal of above ground power lines, will better harden and protect the community of Wynola Estates.

2. The removal of GSOB infested oak trees that are within 100 feet of homes, line streets and, more critically, are located under or near power and telecommunication lines, is a priority for our community. The removal of this dead material near power lines is critical, as is removal of large dead trees that could easily fall while burning, or in high winds, and prevent safe egress from the community during a wildfire as well as hinder firefighting efforts.
3. 30 feet of roadside clearance along Highway 78.
4. Fuel reduction between Inaja Memorial Park and USFS Wilderness Area (Cleveland National Forest) which is directly adjacent to Wynola Estates.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Continued work on the projects above.

07

Evacuation Planning

Identifying key corridors in and out of a community – as well as temporary refuge areas – is essential to being prepared for evacuation. This section provides an overview of the PACE system (primary, alternate, contingency and emergency) used to plan ahead.

Evacuation planning is a dynamic process subject to the nuances of each community. Below is an overview of Wynola Estates’ key ingress and egress, as well as designated evacuation corridors, Temporary Refuge Areas, completed projects, priorities and future projects

I. OVERVIEW OF INGRESS AND EGRESS

Highway 78 is primarily a two (2) lane paved highway generally positioned in an East/West direction. Some portions have turnouts for passing.

Wynola Road is a narrow and tight two (2) lane paved road generally positioned in an East/West direction.

II. DESIGNATED EVACUATION CORRIDORS

Wynola Estates

PRIMARY Hwy 78

ALTERNATE Wynola Road

CONTINGENCY N/A

EMERGENCY N/A

III. TEMPORARY REFUGE AREAS

The new emergency fire escape exit on Springview Road will lead residents to a possible shelter in

place scenario at Julian Farmers and Orchard instead of the Richie Road escape exit which gives them a flee scenario on CA 78.

IV. PRIORITIES

- Fire Road easement and exit to Julian Farm and Orchard
- Develop a new emergency fire escape exit on Springview between 1643 Springview and 1707 Springview. Working on easements and legal documents currently. This will be in addition to the fire escape exit at the end of Springview to Richie Road.

V. COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS

N/A

VI. FUTURE PROJECTS

- Educate neighbors about proper escape routes and evacuation centers to use in the event of an evacuation using the County’s Genasys Protect application.

08

Other Mitigation & Preparedness

There are countless ways that communities can act to protect themselves ahead of wildfires. This section details additional past, current and future efforts underway that were not previously mentioned.

I. PRIORITIES

- Wynola Estates needs to update our water system, so we have proper underground piping for maximum emergency water flow and adequate water storage tanks. Neither are in place currently, leaving inadequate water resources.
- Stripping for streets for good visibility in fog or smoke for clear residents location and safe evacuation.
- Focus on California Native plants, help protect your property through firewise landscaping.

II. COMPLETED AND/OR ONGOING PROJECTS

- We have now met the criteria and are an official Firewise Community.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS

- New fire hydrants are needed for our community Wynola Water District. These hydrants are not only used to fight a

community fire, but are often used by local firefighters to fill water trucks when fighting wildfires in the neighboring areas. New hydrants will enable the Wynola Estates community to be better able to defend against wildfires coming from perimeter zones such as Inaja. With a major reduction in fire fuel as well as new fire hydrants, Wynola Estates can become a buffer zone and defensible area for firefighters.

- Update the water capacity for Wynola Estates from 120,000 gallons to a minimum of 350,000 gallons. Replace our aging underground water pipes with correct size pipes for maximum pressure in an emergency situation. Replace any aged and improperly functioning hydrants and add proper labeling and roadside markings to indicate hydrant location. With a major reduction in fire fuel, as well as an updated water storage and delivery stem, Wynola Estates can become a buffer zone and defensible area for firefighters.

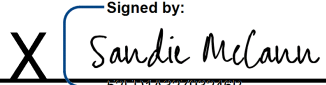
09

Signatures

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

*The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as developed for as developed for **Wynola Estates**:*

- Was collaboratively developed and meets the intent of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) in emphasizing the need for agencies to work collaboratively with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a CWPP. Interested parties and federal land management agencies in the vicinity of this CWPP have been consulted.
- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect areas within this CWPP.
- Recommends measures to reduce ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only, utilizing a compilation of community issues/goals and projected fire mitigation strategies. The CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project “activity” as defined under the “Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA.” Per the Community Guide, Section 3.1.1, “CEQA only applies to public agency decisions to approve, or actions to carry out, a discretionary project.” Any actual project activities meeting this definition of project activity and undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state, and federal environmental compliance requirements.
- Assists and encourages compliance with current county and state fire code standards.

Signed by:

 52FD1A32793246B...
 President of the
 Fire Safe Council Submitting this CWPP

DocuSigned by:

 76E309F25E1D44B...
 Participating Fire Agency representative
 (State, Local, or Tribal)

San Diego County Community Wildfire Prevention Plans Review Committee:

This CWPP was reviewed and recommended for approval by the San Diego Community Wildfire Protection Plan Review Committee as demonstrated by the signature below.

Signed by:

X _____
Don Butz, President
Fire Safe Council of San Diego County

The CAL FIRE Unit Chief has final signing authority on CWPPs in San Diego County. The signature below attests that the standards listed in the section above and the content of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan are proposed to be met and mutually accepted.

DocuSigned by:

X _____
Tony Mecham, Unit Chief
CAL FIRE San Diego Unit

10

Appendices

This section includes important additional information that complements other portions of the plan.

APPENDIX A. MEETING TRACKING DOCUMENTS

This CWPP was developed for the community of Wynola Estates, through a series of community meetings. The Fire Safe Council of Wynola Estates members who contributed to the document include the following:

Community Representatives

- Sandie McCann, Wynola Estates FSC

Agency Representatives

- Thomas Shoots, CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire

Meetings Dates

APPENDIX B.
MAPS

Figure 1 Area Communities Map

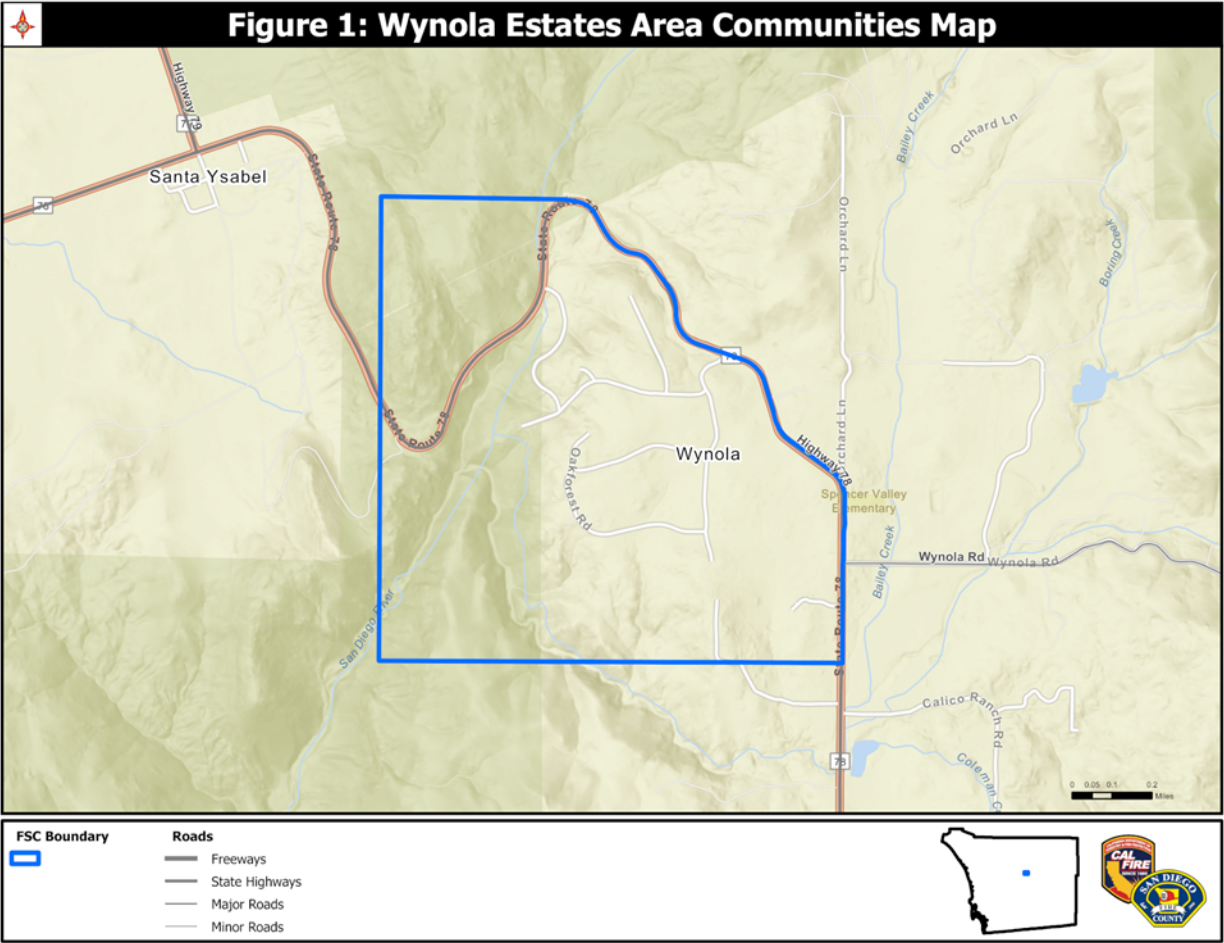


Figure 2 Fire Hazard Severity Map

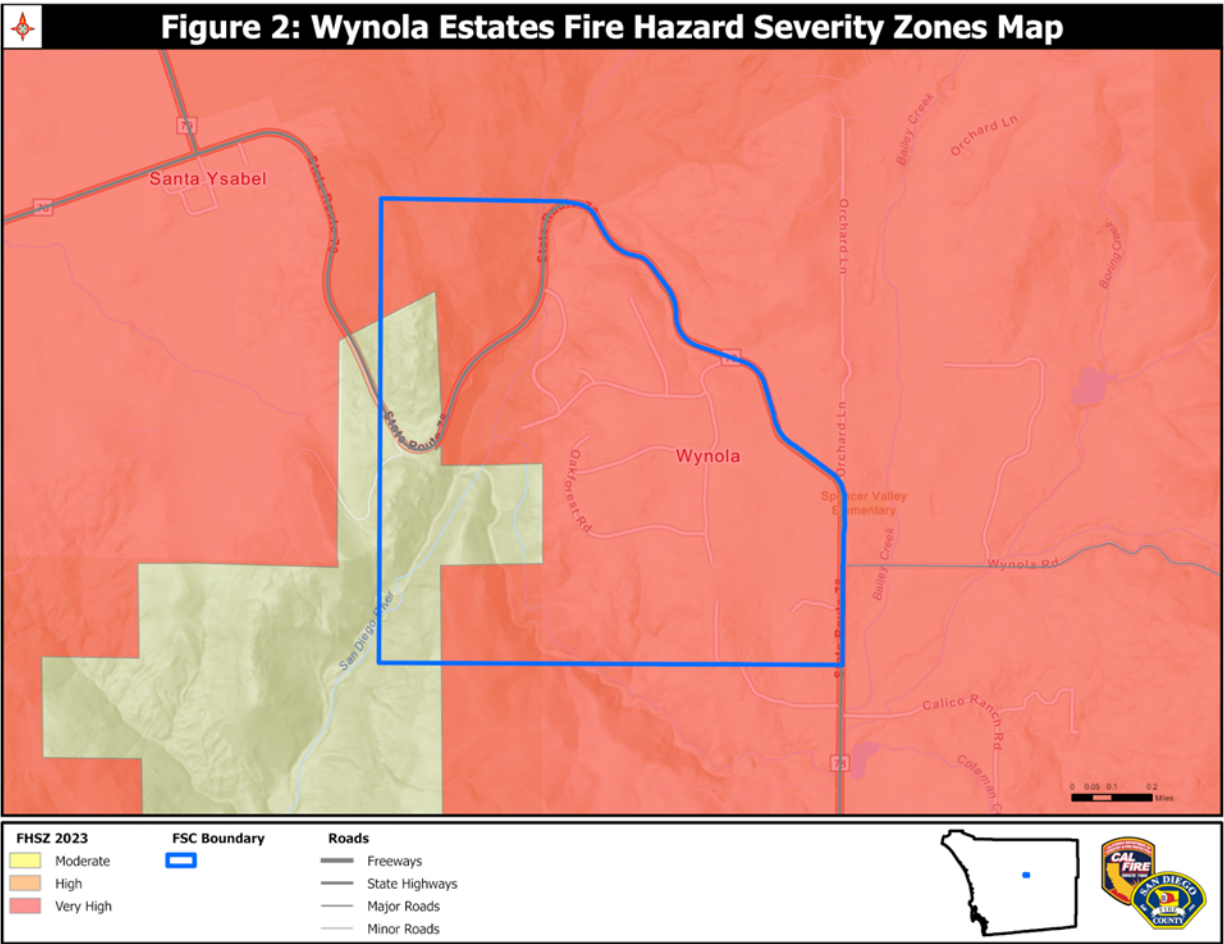


Figure 3 Fire History 2000-2024

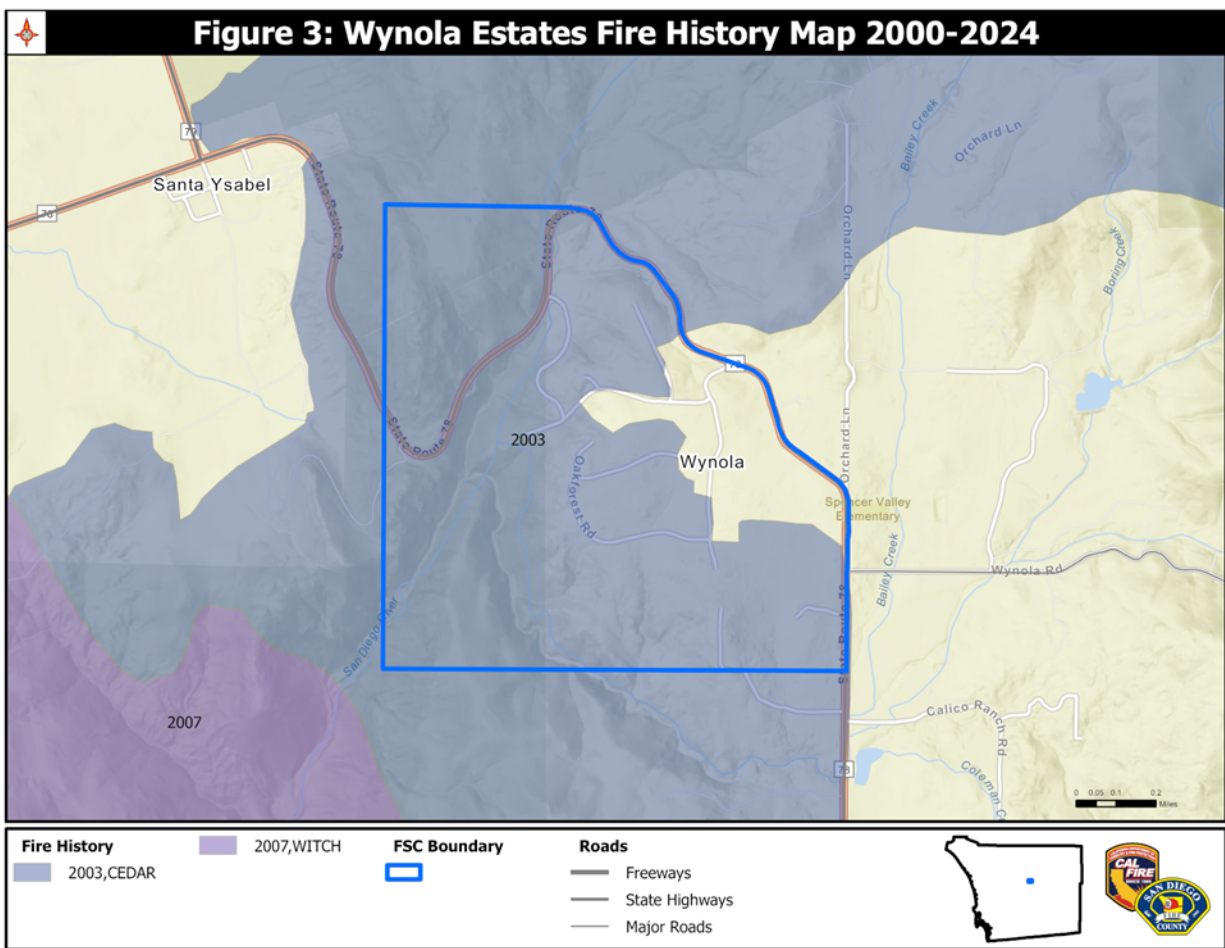


Figure 4 Evacuation Map

