

APPENDIX D - September 2022 Update

3.0 ACTION PLAN

The plan below defines the actions needed to lessen the risk of wildfires and to address the community's greatest risks. The plan lists the action items for each of the five entities – City of Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Community Association, Residents, LA County Fire Department and LA County Sheriff's Department.

| Action Plan (FY2022-2023 to FY 2024-2025) | City | RHCA | Residents | LACFD | LASD |
|--|------|------|-----------|-------|------|
| 1 Block Captain Program - participate and support program | x | x | XX | x | x |
| 2 Neighborhood zone meetings | x | | XX | x | x |
| 3 Emergency communication with residents | x | x | XX | x | x |
| 4 Evacuation Exercise | XX | x | x | x | x |
| 5 Workshops and seminars for residents | x | x | XX | x | x |
| 6 Special needs population | x | x | XX | | |
| 7 Define communication standards with residents | XX | x | x | | |
| 8 Define refuge areas | x | x | x | XX | x |
| 9 City Ordinance Enforcement | XX | | x | | |
| 10 Los Angeles County Fire Department Annual Inspection | | | x | XX | |
| 11 Evacuation routes (roadside) vegetation management | | XX | x | x | |
| 12 Bridal trail vegetation management | | XX | x | | |
| 13 Entry/Exit gates vegetation management | | XX | | x | |
| 14 Fire Fuel Management in Preserve with Land Conservancy | XX | | | x | |
| 15 Development of fire fuel management standards | | XX | x | x | |
| 16 City Ordinance to restrict planting of six high hazard plants per "Ready! Set! Go!" brochure | XX | x | x | x | |
| 17 Motorize Crest Road East Gate | | | | | |
| 18 Utility undergrounding projects | XX | x | x | | |
| 19 Grants for fire fuel management in canyons | XX | | | | |
| 20 Controlled burns in canyons | x | x | x | XX | x |
| 21 Wildfire Camera Detection System | XX | x | x | | |
| 22 Demonstration of Vegetation Management Project Models | XX | XX | XX | | |

Legend: XX Primary Responsibility
x Secondary Responsibility

Project Descriptions

1. Block Captain Program

Revised: This project will focus on the recruitment and the training of the Block Captain volunteers **to educate residents within their zones on being prepared for emergencies.** Training programs will focus on **providing** ~~teaching~~ Block Captains ~~about responsibilities and other~~ **with** useful information, such as **Rolling Hills evacuation brochure, educational videos on hardening the home and fire fuel management in the canyons** ~~how to keep specific supplies accessible for when they are called to respond.~~

~~*Deleted:* The project will evaluate the best marketing materials to encourage recruitment, best training vehicles, including multi-media, and enhancements needed to the City's website to support the management of resident contact information while ensuring privacy and confidentiality.~~

Added: **As of June 2022, there are 41 Block Captains and 10 Block Captain Support. Block Captains recruited new volunteers and the City utilized the Blue Newsletter to announce program goals and activities. In 2021 and 2022, the City emphasized at Block Captain meetings that the role of the Block Captain is to educate the community on preparedness measures. Block Captains and Block Captain Support are to care for themselves and loved ones in the time of emergencies.**

The City implemented the Emergency Information System (EIS) database to manage the resident and Block Captain contact information.

Project Leads: Block Captain Leads and City of Rolling Hills ~~working with First Responders and RHCA~~

Timing: 2020/2023

2. Neighborhood Zone Meetings

~~*Deleted:* The project will evaluate available educational materials and videos from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, which highlight priorities documented in the Ready! Set! Go! Brochure. The project will evaluate a cost-effective approach to video for replay on the City's website.~~

Added: **This project is comprised of Block Captains holding meetings with the residents within their zones. The City assists Block Captains with Neighborhood Zone Meetings by making City Hall available for meetings. Additionally, the Lead Block Captains assist with the meeting agenda and provide educational materials, including the home hardening and fire fuel management in the canyons videos. Both videos are available to all residents via the city's website.**

Project Leads: Block Captain Leads and City of Rolling Hills with First Responders
Timing: 2020/2023

3. Emergency Communication with Residents

~~Deleted: The City's volunteer Block Captains are a crucial liaison between residents in the 24 City zones, first responders and the City's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in the event of a large scale emergency. Block Captains have responsibilities in assisting residents of Rolling Hills before, during and after a disaster including:~~

- ~~• What to do in an emergency, in advance of an evacuation and in preparation for a disaster.~~
- ~~• During an emergency specific information will provided to emergency responders through the EOC about the state of residents in a Zone.~~

~~In the event that cell phones, landlines and/or email communications are compromised evaluate other equipment options, such as digital radios, satellite phones (with Push to talk capability) or other viable options. Purchase equipment and provide training to Block Captains as necessary.~~

Added: The City of Rolling Hills relies primary on communication tools that require electricity, cellular signals or access to the internet during an emergency. During inclement weather conditions, the City may be susceptible to power outages including during periods of heightened fire danger resulting in an increased risk of not receiving important communications including evacuation orders, via landlines, cellular, internet or radio. Since February 2021, the City embarked on identifying communications systems that will assist the City in the event of a complete power failure. One such system is the outdoor siren system that has intelligible voice and tone coverage for emergency alerting capabilities. The City Council allocated \$300,000 for an outdoor sire project in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget.

Project Leads: City of Rolling Hills with First Responders and RHCA
Timing: 2022/2023

4. ~~Deleted: Evacuation Exercise~~; Added: Emergency Notification Exercise

~~Deleted: It is important to periodically conduct a simulation exercise of an actual emergency evacuation with all entities involved during an emergency: First Responders, residents, City of Rolling Hills and the RHCA, including the gate staff. The goals of the exercise can include but are not limited to evacuation of residents and individuals with special needs, communication between the city's Emergency Operations Center and~~

~~Block Captains, and traffic control. Assessment and “lessons learned” should be captured and shared.~~

Added: Based on recommendations from the First Responders, the City’s initial plan to conduct an actual emergency drill where residents evacuate the City did not occur and instead in August 2022, the City conducted its first emergency notification exercise to simulate a fictional emergency incident. The goals of the exercise include but are not limited to test the City’s Alert South Bay system and encourage residents to register to the City’s Emergency Information System and/or Alert South Bay. Assessment and “lessons learned” have been captured and shared.

The City is also in collaboration with the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management to develop a Peninsula-wide mass evacuation plan using the Zonehaven software. Zonehaven is a cloud-based evacuation management software that leverages critical data and assists local public safety personnel (e.g., Los Angeles County Fire and Sherriff Departments and Palos Verdes Estates Police Department) by providing actionable insight to emergency responders and the public in the event of a disaster.

Project Leads: City of Rolling Hills

Timing: On-going

~~7. Define communications Standards with Residents~~

~~*Deleted:* This project will define the protocols for communicating for the City to communicate with Block Captains and for the Block Captains to communicate with residents during emergencies and wildfire events. This project will include the purchase of communication devices for relevant parties.~~

Comment: The City will be communicating with residents using the Alert Southbay platform for emergencies. To bring awareness, the City has been using the Blue Newsletter to inform residents of the Alert Southbay platform.

~~Project Leads: City of Rolling Hills~~

~~Timing: **Completed**~~

10. Los Angeles County Fire Department Annual Inspections

The project requires the Fire Department Brush Clearance Unit to conduct inspection at all parcels within the city limits for compliance with 200’ defensible space around structures. *Added:* In addition, in October 2020, the Fire Department conducted year-round roadside clearance inspections, looking at areas ten feet from the edge of pavement. Starting in July 2021, the roadside clearance was incorporated in the annual

brush clearance inspections. Informally, the Fire Department will provide complementary consultations beyond 200' starting Fall 2022.

Project Leads: Los Angeles County Fire Department
Timing: Currently in progress and on-going

14. Fire Fuel Management in the Preserve

This project requires the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to remove fire fuel in the Preserve annually. The City has funded two areas of fuel removal between 2019 and 2020. *Added: Since February 2022, the City has funded two additional areas of fuel load reduction in the areas closest to the Rolling Hills border with the Preserve.*

Project Leads: City and Land Conservancy
Timing: currently in progress, on-going

~~15. Development of Fire Fuel Management Standards~~

~~This project requires the development of fire fuel management standards for the residents and the community as a whole.~~

Comment: In November 2020, the Rolling Hills Community Association adopted the "Fire Fuel Management Strategies" and has disseminated the standards to all City residents.

~~Project Lead: RHCA
Timing: **Completed**~~

~~16. City Ordinance to Restrict Planting of Six High Hazard Plants per "Ready! Set! Go!" Brochure~~

~~In April 2020, the City Council considered restricting the planting of the six high hazard plants but decided not to take action. Instead, the City Council directed staff to discourage applicants seeks permits development or landscaping projects from planting the six high hazard plants. The City Council will reconsider taking action in the near future~~

Comment: In March 2022, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 375 prohibiting new plantings of high hazardous plants and trees.

~~Project Lead: City
Timing: **Completed**~~

~~17. Motorized Crest Road East Gate~~

~~There is a fourth (4th) gate that is locked and closed located at the end of Crest Road East with no guards. There are several holders of the key to unlock the gate including:~~

- ~~• LA County Sheriff~~
- ~~• LA County Fire Department~~
- ~~• All RHCA Gatehouses~~
- ~~• RHCA Manager~~
- ~~• Maintenance Supervisor and Staff~~
- ~~• Gate Supervisor~~
- ~~• Architectural Supervisor~~

~~During a wildfire emergency the Crest Road East gate is considered by First Responders as an option for residents to use to exit the city. Residents should be informed in advance that Crest Road East is an option and is considered as a one-way exit from Rolling Hills into Rancho Palos Verdes towards Palos Verdes Drive East. Once the Crest Road East Gate is opened, residents will not be granted re-entry through this gate.~~

~~First Responders will determine if an Evacuation Warning and/or Evacuation Order is needed and will notify the City through the Incident Command Center.~~

~~During a wildfire emergency an Evacuation Warning may be issued by the Incident Command Center. Residents will be alerted of a potential threat to life and property that is more than two hours away. If the possibility exists that the gate will need to be opened a RHCA staff person will be stationed at the gate ready to open it.~~

~~An Evacuation Order may be issued by the Incident Command Center. Residents will be alerted of an immediate threat to life and property that is within one to two hours. RHCA staff person or another designee of the RHCA should be onsite to assist with traffic management if available.~~

~~Note: As of the publication date of this plan the RHCA Board of Directors approved the automation of the Crest Road East gate. The installation is scheduled to be completed in August 2020. It is expected that RHCA staff will be able to open the gate remotely upon receiving with an Evacuation Warning or Evacuation Order from First~~

Comment: There is a fourth (4th) gate that is locked and closed located at the end of Crest Road East with no guards. During an emergency, RHCA staff will open the Crest Road East Gate remotely upon receiving an Evacuation Warning or Evacuation Order from First Responders.

~~Project Leads: RHCA~~

~~Timing: **Completed**~~

18. Utility Undergrounding Projects

Revised: This project requires the undergrounding of overhead utilities within the City. In September 2020, the City received Federal monies for the Crest Road East utility undergrounding project. Design is expected to be completed by end of 2022.

In January 2022, the City received Federal monies for the Eastfield Drive project. In addition, the County of Los Angeles is expected to approve the donation of its Rule 20A work credits to the City in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Eastfield Drive project.

The City also provides incentives for residents to form assessment districts for utility undergrounding projects. In July 2020, the City adopted Resolution No. 1259 which provides reimbursements to residents for utility pole removals of up to \$3,500.

Project leads: City

Timing: Currently in progress, on-going

19. Grants for Fire Fuel Management in Canyons

This project requires collaboration with property owners with canyons ~~of the canyon areas and~~ to find innovative ways to remove fire fuels in difficult to reach areas.

Added: In November 2020, the City received Phase 1 approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program through the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to create defensible space/fuel breaks to protect homeowners from wildfires. The City identified areas (approximately 39 private properties) for treatment including removing dead vegetation, reducing the volume of vegetation in trees, shrubs and grass, and reducing the height of brush and grass. Phase 1 of the project was completed in April 2022. The City anticipates FEMA to release funds for Phase 2, implementation, in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Project Leads: City and residents

Timing: On-going

Added new actions 21 and 22:

21. Wildfire Camera Detection System

This new project involves the installation of four to five cameras for early detection of potential wildfires for entire Palos Verdes Peninsula. The fire detection system uses cameras and artificial intelligence software to automatically detect the first wisps of smoke and deliver real-time fire images to First Responders and emergency personnel, with the goal of detecting flare-ups quickly and allowing for a quicker response before a fire spreads. The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is leading the project. The project will be funded for ten years (\$1.5M) with State appropriation via Assembly Bill 179.

Project Lead: City of Rancho Palos Verdes, City
Timing: In-progress

22. Demonstration of Vegetation Management Project Models

This new project involves highlighting vegetation management projects throughout the City for residents to replicate at their own property. One such example is the recent completion of the Rolling Hills Community Association's (RHCA) fuel management demonstration project at Si's Trail (on the northwest corner of Crest Drive West and Portuguese Bend Road) which the RHCA indicated that they utilized the practices outlined in the City's fuel management in the canyons educational videos.

Project Lead: City, RHCA, Residents
Timing: In-progress