

Valley Center Community Planning Group  
Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee  
December 29, 2022 6:30pm  
Minutes



Committee

Delores Chavez Harmes  
Chair / VCCPG

Matt Matthews  
VCCPG

Lisa Adams  
VCCPG / Mobility

Sgt. Michael Davis  
SD Co. Sheriff

James Gordon  
LAFCO/Community

Chief Joe Napier  
Valley Center Fire

Chief Rick Johnson  
Deer Springs Fire

DC Robert Reynolds  
Cal Fire

Jim Courter  
Great Valley Center  
Fire Safe Council



Representatives

Adrienne Selekmán  
District 5 Representative

Lt. Jim Emig  
SD Co. Sheriff

**A. Attendance:** Dee Harmes, Lisa Adams, Sgt. Tyler Skeels, Chief Joe Napier, James Gordon, Chief Chip Duncan, Julia Feliciano

**B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Meeting called to order at 6:33pm

**C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests:** Chief Chip Duncan

**D. Approval of Minutes:** October 27, 2022, minutes moved to approve by Chief Joe Napier with a second by James Gordon. Motion passes with one abstention, Lisa Adams.

**Public Comments:** Quick comments on connection between Hawaii Fire and San Diego.

**E. Action Items:**

- Chair's Report:** Dee Harmes reported on meeting with Rincon Chairman, Bo Mazzetti, and mutual interest in forging an alliance between the tribe and VCCPG. Specifically, to have Rincon Fire participate in the VCCPG Emergency Evacuation subcommittee. Chief Chip Duncan readily agreed, and we greatly appreciate his participation in our subcommittee as well as grooming a close relationship with the Rincon Nation. Short background provided to Chief Duncan on VCCPG Emergency Evacuation.

The Unincorporated areas are not represented at SANDAG, yet across the international border, Tijuana does. Therefore, a coalition of planning and sponsor groups within San Diego County are petitioning for a representative on the SANDAG board.

- VCFPD-Chief Napier:** Expanded on VCCPG emergency evacuation purpose and progress made in 4-5 years the subcommittee has been active. The collaborative partnerships developed have been incredibly helpful including bringing in Deer Springs Fire, creating Ready Set Go videos, aligned partnerships with SDG&E, Greater Valley Center Firesafe Council. Having additional voices to the challenges we have becomes a very powerful message.

State of California is creating a new fire hazard zone. Published information is not sending the right message to community members i.e. business and properties will not be affected and no one will experience hardships. Now is the time for public comment. A fire hazard map has been sent out with an overlay of what they have changed it to look like now. New map eliminates all moderate zones. Meaning insurance industry will use this to impact commercial insurance, private property, etc. Add to this the VMT attached to this area, any development would be prohibitive. VCFPD has not had a voice in this, nor have any other districts. Chief Meacham has been approached for his input and due to his position with the state, he is not allowed to speak to this. If services and commerce are relying on growth now is the time to weigh in on the public comment period.

Controlled intersection at Mirar de Valle is still of great concern, especially with the new residents of Park Circle. Especially with the completion of the new McDonalds. Our Fire Marshall has requested PDS expedite this light. This is another control point during an evacuation.

City of Escondido is willing to work with us to cut a path through Cougar Pass.

- Deer Springs Fire Protection District-Chief Morrison:** No Report. At incident.
- CAL Fire Update Station 71-Division Chief Gettman:** No Report
- San Diego County Sheriff-Sgt. Tyler Skeels:** Sgt. Skeels attended two community meetings with PDS on roundabouts and Lt. Emig attended the PDS meeting with emergency personnel.

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Minutes (cont.)

It is our understanding at this date that PDS has not been provided an official position from VCCPG on roundabouts. Lisa Adams, Mobility subcommittee chair for VCCPG, held a mobility meeting prior to the holidays, however only 3 people attended this subcommittee meeting. Not meeting quorum, no vote could be taken that would be able to be presented to the VCCPG. Additionally, Ms. Adams was on an excused absence at the VCCPG December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting so nothing was discussed. Ms. Adams did send a report to the county at the request of PDS which did not reflect the consensus of the two public meetings or the vote from previous VCCPG meetings. Discussion followed on the process required for subcommittees to present findings to the full board of the VCCPG to be ratified and voted on prior to sending reports stating positions or outlining priorities.

4. **Community Risk Reduction-Chief Reynolds:** No report.
5. **Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council-Jim Courter:** No report.
6. **LAFCO-James Gordon:** Fallbrook and Rainbow proposed detachments are consuming the majority of LAFCO time. Deer Springs Fire District will be addressing the new fire hazard zone as a board issue. Fire Chief Keith McReynolds of North County Fire is taking the lead on this for the district chiefs. Cities are not affected, nor are the tribes.
7. **Community Action Network (411/CAN)-Lisa Adams:** No meetings have been scheduled.

**F. New Business:**

Chief Chip Duncan shared he has been with Rincon for several years and previously was with other agencies. Tribes are slightly different, however, they still have sway and position and are happy to align themselves for the greater good. Although some issues may not have a direct impact on the reservation, ultimately there is an indirect effect. Fire does not recognize borders or geographic boundaries. He is very interested in what we have done and will continue to do and is very concerned in how this insurance fire zone map was developed, at first blush it looks like a one size fits all. That never works well in firefighting.

**Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm**

Next Meeting: January 26, 2023 6:30pm