

Valley Center Community Planning Group Emergency Evacuation Sub-Committee

Minutes April 30, 2026 6pm

Valley Center Water District Board Room
29300 Valley Center Road Valley Center CA 92082



Committee

Delores Chavez Harmes
Chair / VCCPG

Chief Chip Duncan
Rincon Fire

James Gordon
LAFCO / Community

Chief Thomas Shoots
Deer Springs Fire

Chief Joe Napier
Valley Center Fire

Dr. Robb Rattray
VCFPD / Community

Chief Carl Schwettmann
CAL Fire

Sgt. Evan Sobczak
SD Co. Sheriff

Representatives

Adrienne Selekmán
District 5 Representative

Sgt. Daniel Hollywood
CHP

A. Attendance: Dee Harmes, Chief Duncan, Chief Napier, Dr. Rattray, Chief Lofredo, Lt. Tingley, Larry Patterson, Jim Courter, Cherie Crane, Laura Maloney, John Yaeger, Dori Rattray, Billy Wagner, Trina West, Julie Picot, Glenna Hoekstra, Mark Hoekstra.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: the meeting was called to order at 6:30pm and the pledge was recited.

C. Welcome & Introduction of Guests

D. Minutes: January 29, 2026 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. No minutes required approval.

E. Public Comments: None

F. Action items

Chair's Update: Dee Harmes reported that our quarterly meetings will be extended to receive input from the Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council which will follow immediately after the close of the Emergency Evacuation meeting. Also, conversations with SANDAG have been ongoing to request funds be directed to our area to be used for a feasibility study in determining using Daley Ranch as an additional evacuation route. The City of San Diego also requested a matching grant for SANDAG to provide funds to the city in the amount of 5.4 million to be used in part to repair city roads. This is not highest and best use of our county taxpayer funds. The outcome on this has not been determined.

VCFPD Update: Chief Joe Napier reported on the ongoing business of establishing an additional evacuation route. Mirar de Valle turns into a private road till it becomes the property of Escondido. This route eventually connects with Cougar Canyon which ends up connecting with 15 fwy. This could also be used as a fire break. A feasibility study would cost apx. 350,000 to 450,000. State grants are also being sought which have been unsuccessful in securing. Fire station #3 is in the process of being rated.

Twice a week VCFPD volunteers are out conducting defensible space inspections.

North county emergency management has also been focused on animal rescue. Dept. Animal Services and Human Society got together for the first time in many years to address large animal evacuation. Cal State San Marcos agreed to shelter large animals versus to sending our area rescued animals to the Del Mar Fair Grounds. CSSM has committed to the purchase of pipe corral to provide shelter for evacuated animals.

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CAL Fire Update: Chief Schwettmann-No report, training symposium.

Rincon Fire Update: Chief Duncan – Secondary brush cutting going on in Rincon. County wildland drill in Barrona will be taking place next week. Planning for battalion wildland training will take place in June as they prepare for fire season.

Deer Springs Update: Chief Thomas Shoots- No report, training symposium.

VC Sheriff: Lt. Tingley – Sheriff's dept works very closely with VC fire. Sheriff's also attend fire trainings to ensure they are prepared and ready in the event of fires and/or evacuations.

LAFCO Update: James Gordon-No report.

G. New Business

A discussion followed regarding Ag Pass eligibility. To support emergency access and evacuation routes, the Fire Marshal issues Emergency Disaster Service Worker cards to individuals who complete the required training.

1) Next Meeting: July 30, 2026, 6:30pm

2) **Adjourn** 7:35pm