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*This page is inserted to facilitate double-sided printing of the document.*

## 1. Malibu Beaches Community Fire Safety Action Plan<sup>1</sup>

This document covers the four planning units spanning the Malibu beaches.

### 1.1. Malibu Beaches Community Description

#### 1.1.1. West Beaches: Encinal Bluffs to Broad Beach<sup>2</sup>

The West Beaches Planning Unit is situated within the City of Malibu south of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) between and including Zuma County Beach to the east and Leo Carrillo State Beach to the west. It is 6.1 square miles in area. The assets at risk in the *built environment* (man-made structures as opposed to the natural environment) include more than 200 single-family homes, three Los Angeles County beaches (Zuma, El Sol, and Nicholas Canyon), four state beaches (El Matador, La Piedra, El Pescador, and Leo Carrillo), and Los Angeles County Fire Station #99. Estate sizes expand increasingly west of Broad



Beach as bluff formations extend southward from PCH. Homes located on the bluffs are larger, more densely vegetated, and tend to host more structures. Average residential lot size from Broad Beach to Victoria Point (aka Lechuza Point) is one-quarter acre. Most of the properties on Encinal Bluffs are zoned 2 acres.<sup>3</sup> Real estate values range from \$4 million to \$18 million.<sup>4</sup>

Two coastal access easements are found along Broad Beach Road. They are public walkways situated between homes. Allowed use of all public easements is for passive recreation. Public beach access in the bluffs area is through three state and two county beaches. The western beach area offers tidepools, scuba diving, dolphin watching, surf fishing, surfing, and swimming. These beaches are not utilized as much as the neighboring public beaches of Zuma and Leo Carrillo.<sup>5</sup>

At least nine *Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas* (ESHAs) are identified within private parcels on Encinal Bluffs. Two beach areas here are known to be frequently used for basking by California sea lions.<sup>6</sup> Zuma Beach has

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<sup>1</sup> This document was written by Julie Clark De Blasio, Principal of Sweetgrass Environmental Consulting, in conjunction with ForEverGreen Forestry.

<sup>1</sup> Bob Pool (February 2, 2010), "Residents seek narrow escape for Broad Beach," *Los Angeles Times*.

<sup>3</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002), *Land Use Map 1: Nicholas Canyon to Trancas Beach*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

<sup>4</sup> The Levin Group, *Malibu Real Estate*, [www.malibu-real-estate.com](http://www.malibu-real-estate.com) (accessed February 18, 2010).

<sup>5</sup> As is the case with the entire California coastline, except for publicly owned beaches, all beaches here are private above the mean high tide line and public below that line to the water.

<sup>6</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002), *ESHA and Marine Resources Map 1: Nicholas Canyon to Trancas Beach*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

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6 acres of wetlands that serve as part of an important wildlife corridor and bird nesting site. This area is located at the eastern edge of the beach next to Point Dume.<sup>7</sup>

Ingress and egress for beachfront homes is along Broad Beach Road to PCH. Access to development on the bluffs is by lateral non-connecting roads extending south from PCH. Evacuation from Broad Beach homes is feasible because there are two access points to PCH and the road accommodates two lanes. Most of the drives on Encinal Bluffs are privately maintained. Many are only one lane wide. All are cul-de-sacs with entrances from PCH. Some are behind locked gates.

### 1.1.2. Point Dume to Paradise Cove

The Point Dume–Paradise Cove Planning Unit is situated within the City of Malibu south of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). Its area is 1.8 square miles. The assets at risk include at least 900 single-family homes, condominiums, a state beach and preserve, Los Angeles County Fire Station #71, an elementary school, two gated mobile home parks, a shopping center, business center, post office, gas station, post-rehabilitation center, youth summer day camp, community center, and two private beaches, one with a pier and restaurant. Many single-family homes are gated. Property values in both mobile home communities can exceed \$1 million. Condominium prices start around \$525,000. Homes at Point Dume range from \$1.8 million to \$11.8 million.<sup>8</sup>

The area is heavily vegetated, mostly with flammable ornamental species such as eucalyptus and pine. Much of the *urban forest* was established as early as the mid-1940s.<sup>9</sup> Average single-family home lot size at Point Dume is 1 acre.<sup>10</sup>

Beach access includes Point Dume State Beach, private access at Point Dume Cove, and private pay at Paradise Cove Beach. The beaches and 32-acre Point Dume Nature Preserve offer passive recreation including hikes, land-side whale-watching, and tidepool exploration. This area does not experience the high rate of public use that the neighboring Zuma County Beach does.



At least six ESHAs are identified within private parcels at Point Dume and Paradise Cove. Ancient sycamore trees, willows, riparian habitat, and coastal sage scrub, along with wildlife, are common at Paradise Cove. These ESHAs encompass many acres and approximately 20% of the planning unit area. Most of the native vegetation surrounding Paradise Cove is part of an ESHA. Point Dume

Beach is commonly used for basking by California sea lions.<sup>11</sup> The entire planning unit has high significance with regard to cultural, historical, and archeological resources.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (2010), Habitats - wetlands and riparian corridors.

<sup>8</sup> The Levin Group, *Malibu Real Estate*. [www.malibu-real-estate.com](http://www.malibu-real-estate.com) (accessed February 18, 2010).

<sup>9</sup> Point Dume Community Association (2010), Point Dume Community Association website. [www.pointdume.org](http://www.pointdume.org).

<sup>10</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002), *Land Use Map 2: Zuma Beach to Escondido Beach*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

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Ingress and egress for the two gated mobile home communities, Point Dume Club and Paradise Cove, are private roads off PCH. The roads in Paradise Cove are narrow. Two unpaved fire roads at Paradise Cove are used primarily for beach access. Approximately two-thirds of the roads in Point Dume are interconnected. The remaining one-third are cul-de-sacs. Primary arterial access to these neighborhoods is from PCH.

### 1.1.3. Central Beaches: Escondido Beach to Malibu Colony

The central beaches are located within the City of Malibu south of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), between Malibu Lagoon to the east and up to and not including Paradise Cove on the west. They include the neighborhoods of lower Ramírez Canyon, Escondido Beach and Bluffs, Tivoli Cove, Latigo Shores, Malibu Cove Colony (including Bayshore), Malibu Road, Crummer subdivision, and Malibu Colony. Total area is 1 square mile. The built environment encompasses more than 700 structures, including single-family homes, condominiums with one complex gated and guarded, two gated and guarded neighborhoods, a state beach, state recreation area, city park and community center, Los Angeles County Fire Station #88, a retail center, two business, medical and personal services centers, several eateries, and a gas station. Many single-family homes are gated. Condominium prices currently start at \$525,000. Single-family homes range from \$3 million to \$19.5 million.<sup>13</sup> Owner-occupied beachfront properties are estimated to comprise 25% of all homes in this planning unit. The remaining 75% of homes are either rentals or one of multiple homes belonging to the owner.<sup>14</sup>

Most neighborhoods of the central beaches have tall mature ornamental landscaping. Beachfront home lot size averages one-quarter acre. Bluff lots along Malibu Road, PCH, Bayshore, and Escondido mostly range from 2 to 5 acres. A few of these are subdivided.

Public beach access includes Malibu Lagoon State Beach and Dan Blocker State Beach. Access easements include five along Malibu Road, one near the intersection of Corral Canyon Road and PCH, and two along Escondido Beach.<sup>15</sup> The beaches, Malibu Bluffs State Recreation Area, and Malibu Bluffs City Park offer passive and developed recreation including hikes, land-side whale-watching, tidepool exploration, swimming, surfing, baseball, and soccer.

Three ESHAs are identified for this planning unit. Two are located on private parcels of Escondido Bluffs. The third is in the bluffs area above Malibu Road and extends from due west of Malibu Colony Plaza to the west perimeter of the state recreation area.<sup>16</sup>

Ingress and egress varies for each neighborhood. Malibu and Malibu Cove Colonies are gated with narrow cul-de-sacs.<sup>17</sup> Tivoli Cove is gated. Many larger estates on the bluffs are gated and located on narrow cul-de-sac drives that

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<sup>11</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002), *ESHA and Marine Resources Map 2: Zuma Beach to Escondido Beach*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

<sup>12</sup> City of Malibu (1995), *General Plan: Land Use Element – Appendix A – Neighborhood Descriptions*. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/2155/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/2155/).

<sup>13</sup> Blockshopper, Los Angeles Real Estate News, [www.losangeles.blockshopper.com/cities/Malibu](http://www.losangeles.blockshopper.com/cities/Malibu) (accessed February 18, 2010).

<sup>14</sup> M. Willens (November 4, 2004), “Flashback: They were the kids of Malibu Colony,” *Los Angeles Times*.

<sup>15</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002), *Public Access Map 3: Dan Blocker to Malibu Pier*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

<sup>16</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002), *ESHA and Marine Resources Map 3: Dan Blocker to Malibu Pier*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

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are lateral to either PCH or Malibu Road. Latigo Shore Drive and adjoining short streets are very narrow cul-de-sacs. Escondido Beach Drive is a narrow cul-de-sac.

This planning unit has four active landslides. Latigo Shore Drive routinely collapses from *subsidence* (continual erosion undercutting the cliff and road base). Hillside landslides are located at Puerco Beach, Malibu Cove Colony Drive, and Malibu Road.<sup>18</sup>

### 1.1.4. East Beaches: Malibu Point to Topanga Beach

The east beaches are located within the City of Malibu south of PCH and between Topanga State Beach to the east and Malibu Lagoon to the west. They include the beach neighborhoods of Topanga, Las Tunas, Big Rock, Las Flores, La Costa, and Carbon. Its area is 0.4 square mile. This is the narrowest coastal unit in the CWPP Planning Area because private property is limited on either side by the Pacific Ocean and PCH. There are no bluffs or open space in this part of the coast.

The built environment has more than 450 structures including single-family homes, condominiums, townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, lodging, eateries, stores, a gas station, private beach club, public pier, state historic landmark (Adamson House), and four state beaches (Malibu Lagoon, Surfrider, Las Tunas, and Topanga). Carbon Beach is locally known as “Billionaires Beach,” as it has the highest property values in Malibu.<sup>19</sup> Single-family home prices range from \$10 to \$20 million.<sup>20</sup> Beachfront home lot sizes range from one-sixth acre to three-quarter acre.<sup>21</sup> Most lots are built-out, meaning the structure takes most of the land area and severely limits available soil for landscaping.

Public beach access includes four state beaches. There are four public access easements: two on Carbon and two on Big Rock beaches.<sup>22,23</sup> The beaches offer opportunities for passive recreation including tidepool exploration, swimming, surfing, and scuba diving. There are no ESHAs identified for the East Beaches Planning Unit.<sup>24</sup>

All neighborhoods are located along PCH, which is the main arterial conduit for Malibu. Landslides, congestion, and traffic collisions can impede ingress and egress. Topanga Beach is the only neighborhood located off PCH. The roadway is a narrow cul-de-sac.

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<sup>17</sup> Chuck Chriss (January 2010), *Malibu Complete: Getting Around Malibu – Malibu Colony, Malibu Cove Colony, Malibu Road, Latigo Shore*. [www.malibucomplete.com](http://www.malibucomplete.com)

<sup>18</sup> City of Malibu (1995), *General Plan – Safety and Health Element*.

<sup>19</sup> Chuck Chriss (2010, January), *Malibu Complete: Getting Around Malibu – Carbon Beach, Las Flores Beach*, [www.malibucomplete.com](http://www.malibucomplete.com).

<sup>20</sup> Blockshopper, Los Angeles Real Estate News, [www.losangeles.blockshopper.com/cities/Malibu](http://www.losangeles.blockshopper.com/cities/Malibu) (accessed February 18, 2010).

<sup>21</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002). *Land Use Map 4: Carbon Beach to Topanga Beach*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

<sup>22</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002), *Public Access Map 4: Carbon Beach to Topanga Beach*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

<sup>23</sup> B. Pool (May 27, 2005), “And now the coast is here,” *Los Angeles Times*.

<sup>24</sup> California Coastal Commission Technical Services, San Francisco, CA (Revised 2002), *ESHA and Marine Resources Map 4: Carbon Beach to Topanga Beach*. Local Coastal Program – City of Malibu. [www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/1603/).

## 1.2. Malibu Beaches Current Fire Environment

The entire Santa Monica Mountains region is designated by CAL FIRE as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This determination by the state is based on factors such as fire weather, slope, and fuel loading, among others. The beach areas in Malibu are all within this zone.

### 1.2.1. West Beaches: Encinal Bluffs to Broad Beach

The West Beaches area of Malibu experienced wildfire in the 30,000-acre Malibu-Latigo complex (October 23, 1935), 16,400-acre Sherwood/Zuma/Newton complex (December 28, 1956) with 100 homes lost in the burn area; Trancas (September 23, 1978); 25,586-acre Kanan (September 23, 1978); and Green Meadow (October 26, 1993) fires.<sup>25</sup> Other wildland fire incidents that burned to the north side of PCH and threatened the west beaches include the Decker (October 14, 1985), Decker (November 13, 2002), and Pacific fires (January 6, 2003). These fires burned wide swaths of the Santa Monica Mountains and were not limited to the beach area.<sup>26</sup> The Kanan fire burned 200 homes, including several on Broad Beach, and there were two fatalities. The Green Meadow fire destroyed 24 homes across the burn area.<sup>27</sup>

Parcels are vegetated with mature, highly flammable urban fuels. Vegetation encroaches upon many power lines. View Protection Ordinances are a vegetation management tool that could dually serve to ameliorate fire threat in the neighborhood. A task force has assembled to study the issue in Trancas Beach.<sup>28</sup> Most structures are not retrofitted to 2010 California Fire and Building Standards.<sup>29</sup>

Municipal water supply is through Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 in Malibu. Conveyance is along a transmission main along PCH, with water stored in tanks located on the upland side of the highway. The 6-inch water main for Broad Beach was recently replaced with a 12-inch pipe. The county adopted mandatory water conservation measures in 2009. Threats to the water supply include age and lack of capital funds to upgrade, increased demand from new development, and emergency use such as during wildfire events.<sup>30,31</sup>

Los Angeles County Fire Station #99 is located at 32550 Pacific Coast Highway, roughly one-quarter mile from Encinal Canyon Road on the seaward side of PCH.

### 1.2.2. Point Dume to Paradise Cove

Several wildfires are recorded in this unit. The Calabasas fire of 1903 reached Point Dume. The 30,000-acre Malibu-Latigo complex (October 23, 1935) burned 70 acres of what is now Paradise Cove as well as approximately one-third of Point Dume. The Woodland Hills #65 (November 6, 1943) crossed PCH at Point Dume. The Dume (July 29, 1946) and Latigo (October 30, 1967) fires both crossed PCH east of Kanan Road. The 28,201-acre Wright (September 9, 1970) jumped PCH as well. The 43,090-acre Dayton Fire (October 9, 1982) burned 47 homes in lower Ramírez Canyon and Paradise Cove.<sup>32</sup> The Woodland Hills #65 burned 150 structures in its path. The expansive

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<sup>25</sup> Mike Davis (1998), "The Case for Letting Malibu Burn." In *Ecology of Fear* (New York: Henry Holt), pp. 93-147.

<sup>26</sup> Robert S. Taylor, Biogeographer/Fire GIS Specialist, National Parks Service, personal communication, February 12, 2010.

<sup>27</sup> Mike Davis (1998), "The Case for Letting Malibu Burn."

<sup>28</sup> O. Damavandi (June 3, 2009), "View protection task force at odds over plan," *Malibu Times*.

<sup>29</sup> Building Standards Commission, State of California, [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov) (accessed February 8, 2010).

<sup>30</sup> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (September 2, 2009), *Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan – Public Works Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report – Water Supply*.

<sup>31</sup> Arthur Schimke, Department of Public Works (April-June 2010), personal communication.

<sup>32</sup> City of Malibu (1995), *General Plan: Land Use Element – Appendix A – Neighborhood Descriptions*.

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burn of the Wright fire took 403 homes and ten lives.<sup>33</sup> Other wildland fires on the north side of PCH that threatened the Point Dume and Paradise Cove neighborhoods include the following incidents: unnamed (December 1953), 16,400-acre Sherwood-Zuma-Newton complex (December 28, 1956), unnamed (December 2, 1958), and Latigo (December 8, 1994).<sup>34</sup>

Impediments to emergency ingress and egress in Paradise Cove include downed power lines and trees, locked gates, narrow steep roadways, and only one maintained road out to PCH. There is a locked maintenance gate for the mobile home park located adjacent to PCH. Mobility constraints to Point Dume could include downed power lines and trees, locked gates, and cul-de-sacs.



Parcels throughout Point Dume and Paradise Cove are densely vegetated with mature, tall, highly flammable urban fuels. Many power lines are encroached upon by vegetation. Older lower sections of Paradise Cove are served by external propane tanks.<sup>35</sup> Many older structures are wooden with wooden decks and fences. Newer homes located outside the mobile home community are often constructed of plaster, stucco, or cement. Several original structures dating to the mid-1940s remain. At least three “party spots” were identified

by local residents in Point Dume. Most structures and mobile homes are not retrofitted to 2010 California Fire and Building Standards.<sup>36</sup>

Municipal water supply is through Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 in Malibu. Conveyance is along a transmission main along PCH, with water stored in tanks located on the upland side of the highway. The county adopted mandatory water conservation measures in 2009. Threats to the water supply include age and lack of capital funds to upgrade, increased demand from new development, and emergency use such as during wildfire events.<sup>37,38</sup>

Los Angeles County Fire Station #71 is located at the intersection of PCH and Zumírez Road.

### 1.2.3. Central Beaches: Escondido Beach to Malibu Colony

This planning unit has experienced many wildfires. The frequency of incidents increased significantly since the 1980s. Fires recorded in this area include: Calabasas/Rindge (1903), unnamed (1929), 30,000-acre Malibu-Latigo complex (December 23, 1935), Woodland Hills #65 (November 6, 1943), 28,201-acre Wright (September 25, 1970),

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[www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/2155/](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/2155/)

<sup>33</sup> Mike Davis (1998), “The Case for Letting Malibu Burn.”

<sup>34</sup> Robert S. Taylor, Biogeographer/Fire GIS Specialist, National Park Service, personal communication, February 12, 2010.

<sup>35</sup> City of Malibu (1995), *General Plan: Land Use Element – Appendix A – Neighborhood Descriptions*.

<sup>36</sup> Building Standards Commission, State of California, [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov) (accessed February 8, 2010).

<sup>37</sup> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (September 2, 2009), *Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan – Public Works Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report – Water Supply*.

<sup>38</sup> Arthur Schimke, Department of Public Works (April-June 2010), personal communication.



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43,090-acre Dayton Canyon (October 9, 1982), 5,197-acre Piuma (October 14, 1985), Malibu (November 20, 1992), Latigo (December 8, 1994), Malibu Road (January 8, 2007), Canyon (October 21, 2007), Corral (November 24, 2007), and Bluffs (July 16, 2008).<sup>39</sup> The 1929 fire burned 13 homes in the Colony. The Wright Fire destroyed 37 homes in the east and central beaches areas.<sup>40</sup> The Malibu Road Fire destroyed five homes and damaged six, causing an estimated \$60 million in losses.<sup>41</sup> The Malibu Road Fire began on the bluffs near PCH. Beachfront homes were ablaze within 11 minutes.<sup>42</sup> The Canyon Fire destroyed a trailer and damaged seven businesses in Malibu Colony Plaza.<sup>43</sup> Las Flores #47 (October 20, 1942) encroached upon the central beaches from Malibu Canyon Road westward 1.4 miles and did not cross PCH.<sup>44</sup>

Many parcels throughout the central beaches are vegetated with mature, tall, highly flammable urban fuels such as palms and eucalyptus. Vegetation encroaches upon many power lines. Malibu Colony considered development of a View Protection Overlay District.<sup>45</sup> This would have been a component of the Underground Utility District described below.

Utilities in this planning unit are aboveground. The City created the Malibu Colony Underground Utility District and plans to start the project when it is fiscally feasible.<sup>46</sup> These two formerly proposed districts could have dually served to accomplish their goals of view protection and undergrounding of utilities while also ameliorating the fire threat in the neighborhood.

Several original structures dating to the 1930s are identified in the Malibu Colony and along Malibu Road. Most structures in this planning unit are not retrofitted to 2010 California WUI Fire and Building Standards.<sup>47</sup>



Municipal water supply is through Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 in Malibu. Conveyance is along a transmission main along PCH and stored in tanks located on the upland side of the highway. The county adopted mandatory water conservation measures in 2009. Threats to the water supply include age and lack of capital funds to upgrade, increased demand from new development, and emergency use such as during wildfire events.<sup>48,49</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Robert S. Taylor, NPS, personal communication, February 12, 2010.

<sup>40</sup> Mike Davis (1998), "The Case for Letting Malibu Burn."

<sup>41</sup> M. Magruder (January 17, 2007), "Malibu Road Fire: The aftermath," *Malibu Times*.

<sup>42</sup> Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative, Los Angeles County Fire Department, personal communication, January 2010.

<sup>43</sup> J. Friedman (October 31, 2007), "Malibu fire damages run the gamut," *Malibu Times*.

<sup>44</sup> Robert S. Taylor, NPS, personal communication, February 12, 2010.

<sup>45</sup> O. Damavandi (June 3, 2009), "View protection task force at odds over plan," *Malibu Times*.

<sup>46</sup> R. Morgan (January 18, 2002), *Council Agenda Report: Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2001–2002*, City of Malibu.

<sup>47</sup> Building Standards Commission, State of California, [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov) (accessed February 8, 2010).

<sup>48</sup> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (September 2, 2009), *Malibu*

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Los Angeles County Fire Station #88 is located on Malibu Road across from Malibu Colony Plaza.

### 1.2.4. East Beaches: Malibu Point to Topanga Beach

The 1938 Topanga Fire burned nearly all the homes from Topanga Beach to Big Rock Beach. The 28,201-acre Wright Fire (September 25, 1970) jumped PCH and destroyed 37 homes in the east and central beaches areas.<sup>50</sup> Wildfires that encroached upon the east beaches include: Las Flores #59 (November 17, 1928), unnamed (July 13, 1953), Hume (December 27, 1956), Trippet (October 30, 1973), and Big Rock (September 10, 1992).<sup>51</sup>

Impediments to emergency ingress and egress of this planning unit include downed power lines, a narrow cul-de-sac at Topanga Beach, landslides or traffic collisions on PCH, and highway congestion. The Las Tunas Beach Slide is active in this area.<sup>52</sup>

Many original structures dating to the 1930s are identified, especially from Las Flores Beach eastward. Ornamental vegetation planted next to homes is common, especially on larger parcels. Large stands of eucalyptus grow in the Topanga Beach Drive neighborhood. Most structures in this planning unit are not retrofitted to 2010 California WUI Fire and Building Standards.<sup>53</sup>

Municipal water supply is through Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 in Malibu. Conveyance is along a transmission main along PCH and stored in tanks located on the upland side of the highway. Mandatory water conservation measures were adopted by the county in 2009. Threats to the water supply include age and lack of capital funds to upgrade, increased demand from new development, and emergency use such as during wildfire events.<sup>54,55</sup>

Los Angeles County Fire Station #70 is located at 3970 Carbon Canyon Road, the intersection with PCH.

## 1.3. Malibu Beaches Evacuations

### 1.3.1. West Beaches: Encinal Bluffs to Broad Beach

Evacuation from west beaches will travel either eastward or westward along PCH, depending on law enforcement recommendations based on fire behavior, wind pattern, traffic, and ingress of emergency vehicles. In some cases, and only on the advice of the sheriff, Kanan Dume Road might become an option. Possible impediments to emergency ingress and egress along Broad Beach include downed power lines or trees. Encinal Bluffs hosts many challenges. There are several locked gates. Many drives are narrow and all lack lateral connection if blocked. Local law enforcement and fire departments should investigate the possible safe zones within this unit, including the county, state, and private beaches.

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*Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan – Public Works Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report – Water Supply.*

<sup>49</sup> Arthur Schimke, Department of Public Works (April-June 2010), personal communication.

<sup>50</sup> Mike Davis (1998), “The Case for Letting Malibu Burn.”

<sup>51</sup> Robert S. Taylor, NPS, personal communication, February 12, 2010.

<sup>52</sup> City of Malibu (1995), *General Plan – Safety and Health Element*.

<sup>53</sup> Building Standards Commission, State of California, [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov) (accessed February 8, 2010).

<sup>54</sup> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy/Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (September 2, 2009), *Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan – Public Works Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report – Water Supply*.

<sup>55</sup> Arthur Schimke, Department of Public Works (April-June 2010), personal communication.

### 1.3.2. Point Dume to Paradise Cove

Evacuation from most Point Dume homes is feasible because streets generally accommodate two lanes and are interconnected, although many are heavily vegetated with urban fuels. Potential impediments to evacuation in this area include downed power lines and trees, gated and locked residences and communities, and cul-de-sacs. Evacuation from Point Dume and Paradise Cove will travel either eastward or westward along PCH, depending on law enforcement recommendations based on fire behavior, wind pattern, traffic, and ingress of emergency vehicles. In some cases, and only on the advice of the sheriff, Kanan Dume Road might become an option. The possible safe zones within this unit that should be



investigated by local law enforcement and fire departments include the county, state, and private beaches, the parking lot of the Point Dume Village shopping center, and open disced lots at Point Dume.

### 1.3.3. Central Beaches: Escondido Beach to Malibu Colony

Primary arterial access to all these neighborhoods is from PCH. Evacuation from the central beaches area will travel either eastward or westward along PCH, depending on law enforcement recommendations based on fire behavior, wind pattern, traffic, and ingress of emergency vehicles. In some cases, and only on the advice of the sheriff, Malibu Canyon Road and Kanan Dume Road might become options. Impediments to emergency ingress and egress exist in all neighborhoods of this planning unit and would include downed power lines and trees, locked gates, narrow roadways, cul-de-sacs, landslides at Puerco Beach, Malibu Cove Colony, or Malibu Road, subsidence on Latigo Shore Drive, and power outage affecting the three-story Tivoli Cove complex. Possible safe areas such as the county and private beaches and parking lot of Malibu Colony Plaza should be investigated by local law enforcement and fire departments.

### 1.3.4. East Beaches: Malibu Point to Topanga Beach

Evacuation from east beaches will travel either eastward or westward along PCH, depending on law enforcement recommendations based on fire behavior, wind pattern, traffic, and ingress of emergency vehicles. In some cases, and only on the advice of the sheriff, Malibu Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Road might become options. Possible safe zones for this unit that should be investigated by local law enforcement and fire departments include the state and private beaches and parking lots of Dukes, east of Casa Malibu Inn (22278 Pacific Coast Highway), and the Malibu Pier.

## 1.4. Malibu Beaches Community Meetings Summary

The West Beaches meeting was held in the City of Malibu Council Chambers on January 7, 2010. Two residents attended and did not sign the roster.

The Paradise Cove–Point Dume meeting was held in the City of Malibu Council Chambers on January 8,



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2010. Four residents attended. The Central Beaches meeting was held in the City of Malibu Council Chambers on January 10, 2010. Six residents attended. The East Beaches meeting was held in the City of Malibu Council Chambers on January 10, 2010. No residents attended.

The following assets at risk were identified at these four community meetings. These can be seen on Map II.1-1 at the end of this document.

**FIGURE II.1-1. COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ASSETS AT RISK**

- Adamson House
- Bluffs Park
- Commercial District
- Dukes
- Malibu Urgent Care
- La Costa Beach Club
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Station #71
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Station #88
- Malibu Colony Plaza
- Michael Landon Community Center
- Malibu Lagoon State Park
- Malibu Pier
- Mobile Home Community Centers
- Private wine vineyards
- Paradise Cove Mobile Home Park
- Paradise Cove Restaurant
- Post Offices
- Tivoli Cove Beach
- Urgent Care Facility

**1.4.1. Community-Identified Potential Projects**

The following items are community-identified projects from the community meetings. Residents were encouraged to “think big” and not be concerned about project cost or property ownership for the project brainstorming process. Following the brainstorming, residents prioritized projects based on which were most realistic and most important. These projects can be seen on Map II.1-1 at the end of this document.

**FIGURE II.1-2. MALIBU BEACHES COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PROPOSED PROJECTS**

COMMUNITY MEETING	IDENTIFIED ITEM DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED PROJECT CATEGORY	PRIORITY RANK
Central Beaches	Community education on pool pumps, generators, and home fire prep equip	Education	1
Point Dume	Education and community organizing for stay and defend	Education / Evacuation	1
Central Beaches	Caches of emergency supplies for residents (food, water, etc.)	Emergency Preparedness	1
Point Dume	Community evacuation plan: motorist, pedestrian, including gates and signage, agency collaboration including sheriff	Evacuation	1
Central Beaches	No Smoking campaign in Santa Monica Mountains	Education / Policy	2
Central Beaches	Support CERT Program; identify community leaders	Emergency Preparedness	2
Central Beaches	Program for evacuation and safety of handicapped residents (senior, disabled, vulnerable)	Evacuation	2
Point Dume	Establish Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Protection	2
Point Dume	Hazard tree removal program	Fuel Reduction	2
East Beaches	Plant oak trees as fuelbreak/buffer 1 acre wide	Fuel Reduction	2

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COMMUNITY MEETING	IDENTIFIED ITEM DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED PROJECT CATEGORY	PRIORITY RANK
East Beaches	Enforcement capacity for fire department, brush clearance units and fines, including ability to control urban fuels	Policy	2
Central Beaches	Awareness Campaign: “Brush Clearance” and Preparedness (on TV, etc.)	Education	3
Central Beaches	Education in schools; coordinate with school and fire prevention agency	Education	3
East Beaches	Organize “brush clearance” program for City of Malibu	Fuel Reduction / Policy	3
Central Beaches	Parcel-level structure, landscape, and vegetation inspection, in detail, for fire safety; and identify where to purchase Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) materials and implementation program	Risk Assessment	3
Central Beaches	Provide local organizations with fire equipment (hoses) to access hydrants, pools, pumps	Water	3
Central Beaches	Expand getting information out about grants (keep easy to use/apply), fire safety	Education	
Central Beaches	Local news articles relative to current fire activity	Education	
Central Beaches	Malibu Lagoon, Colony, and Park tour; educate and cooperate on defensible space	Education	
Central Beaches	Malibu resident education re: existing emergency notification	Education / Evacuation	
Point Dume	Signage project – pools, access, animals	Education / Preparedness	
Point Dume	Fire access to homes – Knox locks	Evacuation / Fire Protection	
Point Dume	Paradise Cove: Hazardous fuels and mobile homes	Fuel Reduction	
Point Dume	Analyze fuels starting with public lands at Bonsall Drive thru Point Dume for impacts to Point Dume	Risk Assessment	
Central Beaches	Firefighters clear/check “brush” and be familiar with different areas of Los Angeles County and be visible throughout Malibu to prevent arson	Risk Assessment	
Central Beaches	Citizen Brush Watch to report	Risk Reduction	
Central Beaches	Protect water mains and hydrants along Pacific Coast Highway from collisions and damage	Water	

**1.5. Malibu Beaches Action Plan**

The following projects are the initial priorities for community action for the Malibu Beaches Planning Units.

- Form a local Fire Safe Council (FSC). This structure can facilitate community preparedness for wildfire throughout the beach communities. Work with the California Fire Safe Council to create a FSC that will work best for the beach neighborhoods. One option is a larger Malibu-wide FSC that could have representatives from each of the different neighborhoods and homeowner’s associations (HOAs).
- Work with law enforcement and Los Angeles County Fire Department through a FSC, HOA, or other neighborhood-level association to develop a local evacuation plan. Efforts should be made to ensure that local gates are open or accessible during Red Flag conditions.

## PUBLIC DRAFT

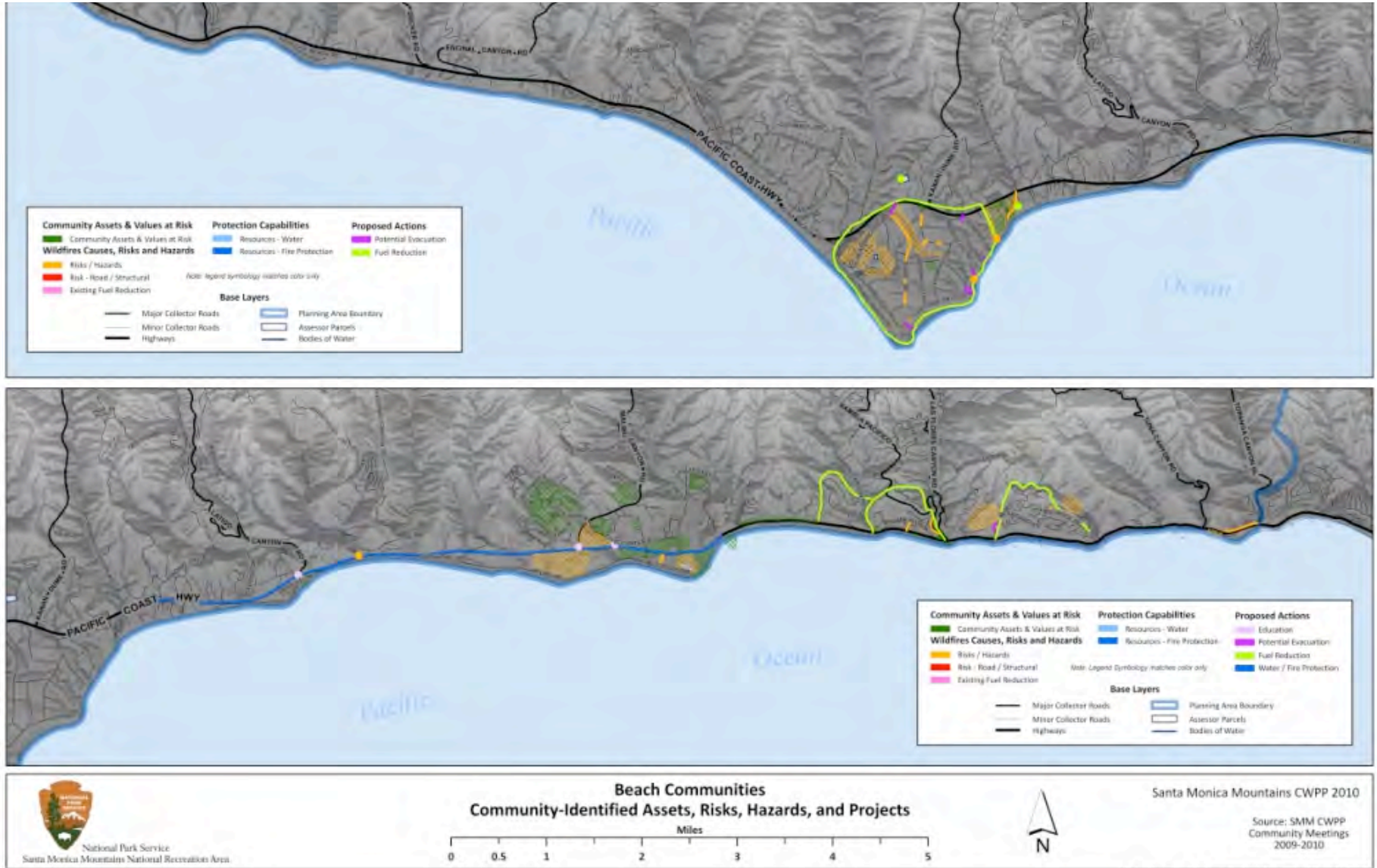
- Work through a new FSC, existing HOA, or other community organization to begin a local community education and preparedness campaign. Beach residents are less likely to believe their homes are vulnerable to wildfire, yet at the state scale, they live in a very high fire hazard area. The Malibu Bluffs fire is a good reminder of this. Include community education on pool pumps, generators, and home fire preparedness equipment.
- Implement a hazard tree removal/thinning program through a FSC, HOA, or other community organization, starting at Point Dume, and in priority order:
  - Along main evacuation routes,
  - Along the spur roads to main evacuation roads,
  - Near homes, especially trees that threaten more than one home,
  - Trees in or near power lines.
- Work through HOAs to educate residents on the need to keep ingress and egress/evacuation routes clear. Residents need to understand the dangers involved in imprudent parking or long-term street storage of unused vehicles. Because natural disasters can strike at any time, key evacuation ingress/egress routes must be kept free of parked vehicles, especially trailers and other large objects that are difficult to move quickly. Trash cans and other items should be kept off the roadway and out of key turnout/passing areas.<sup>56</sup> A neighborhood-organizing project would include creating off-street parking where it is limited. Neighbors can work together to help each other stay in compliance.
- Ensure that a team of residents from each HOA or neighborhood undergoes Malibu Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Paradise Cove residents have done significant emergency response preparedness and can serve as a local model to other Malibu beach communities. This is the vehicle to begin organizing locally for evacuation planning, in cooperation with local law enforcement and the fire department.
- Residents reduce urban fuels in the home ignition zone based on the Conservation Principles and Best Management Practices outlined in Chapters 1, 4, and 5 of this CWPP. Fuels maintenance should be a routine and ongoing practice throughout the year for all homes and landscapes in the Santa Monica Mountains. This includes: ensure structures are resistant to heat and embers, maintain all vegetation “from the house out,” and remove anything in this zone that might ignite and spread fire.
- Explore community purchase and installation of Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) building products to upgrade homes to current WUI building standards.
- All residents upgrade homes to current California WUI fire and building standards.



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<sup>56</sup> The law in Los Angeles County states that trash cans can only be on the street after 5 pm of the day preceding, and until 8 pm on the day of waste collection.

**MAP II.1-1. MALIBU BEACHES: COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ASSETS, RISKS, HAZARDS, AND PROJECTS<sup>57</sup>**



<sup>57</sup> This map prints best at 11x17. Visit to [www.forevergreenforestry.com/smmcwpp\\_pub.html](http://www.forevergreenforestry.com/smmcwpp_pub.html) to download a print version.