City of Rolling Hills INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

AGENDA
Special Fire Fuel Management Committtee Meeting

FIRE FUEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 02, 2021

CITY OF ROLLING HILLS
6:30 PM

SUPPLEMENTAL

This meeting is held pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020. All Committee members will participate by teleconference.

Public Participation: City Hall will be closed to the public until further notice. A live audio of the City Council meeting will available on the City's website (http://www.rolling-hills.org/). The meeting agenda is on the City's website.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83444907576?pwd=UHhpMGtIczlZUDhyNmJTVW9tMXJoQT09

Or dial (669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 834 4490 7576; Passcode: 906138

Members of the public may submit comments in real time by emailing the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofrh.net. Your comments will become part of the official meeting record. Please provide your full name, but please do not provide any other personal information (i.e., phone numbers, addresses, etc.) that you do not want to be published.

1. **PARTICIPANTS:**
   James Black, M.D. Mayor Pro Tem
   Leah Mirsch, City Councilmember
   Elaine Jeng, P.E., City Manager
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2. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

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   2.A. RECEIVE AND FILE A REPORT ON CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND

WILDLIFE'S REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO BLUE LINE STREAMS AND MAPS SHOWING CANYONS IN THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file.

Blue Line Streams_Map_20210527.pdf
Map of fire risks in the canyons.pdf
SUPPLEMENTAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT.docx
Supplemental RH CANYONS.pdf

2.B. REVIEW THE PROPOSED FIRE FUEL MANAGEMENT IN THE CANYONS PROGRAM AND RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO ALLOCATE BUDGET ANNUALLY FOR THE PROPOSED PROGRAM.

RECOMMENDATION: Review the proposed program from staff and consider recommending the proposed program to the City Council.

2.C. DISCUSS (1) REGULATOR VERSUS VOLUNTARY APPROACH TO FUEL MANAGEMENT IN THE CANYONS; (2) DISCUSS IF THE CITY SHOULD CONSIDER GIVING THE COMMUNITY A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO MANAGE FUEL IN THE CANYONS; AND (3) CONSIDER CONDUCTING AN ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES THAT PRESENT A HAZARD TO THE COMMUNITY.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss topics and develop recommendations for City Council consideration.

3.

COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN BY EMAIL IN REAL TIME - PUBLIC COMMENT WELCOME

This is the appropriate time for members of the public to make comments regarding items no listed on this agenda. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action will take place on any items not on the agenda.

4.

ADJOURNMENT

Documents pertaining to an agenda item received after the posting of the agenda are available for review in the City Clerk's office or at the meeting at which the item will be considered.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting due to your disability, please contact the City Clerk at (310) 377-1521 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility and accommodation for your review of this agenda and attendance at this meeting.

Agenda Item No.: 2.A
Mtg. Date: 06/02/2021

TO: **HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

FROM: **ASHFORD BALL, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST**

THRU: **ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **RECEIVE AND FILE A REPORT ON CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE'S REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO BLUE LINE STREAMS AND MAPS SHOWING CANYONS IN THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS.**

DATE: **June 02, 2021**

BACKGROUND:
At previous City Council Fire Fuel Committee meetings, the Committee discussed environmental concerns specifically to blueline streams when conducting fire fuel abatement work in the canyons. The Committee directed staff to research information relating to locations of blueline streams in the City of Rolling Hills to assist the community in understanding environmental regulations. The Committee also directed staff to provide maps that show the canyons in the City of Rolling Hills.

DISCUSSION:

According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Fish and Wildlife), Rolling Hills, CA is recorded in the Department's Region 5 also known as the South Coast Region. The Department of Fish and Wildlife's main concern reviewing projects that are attempting to remove vegetation is over the amount of vegetation to be removed. When large amounts of vegetation are clear cut (even if it is mostly non-native) it can result in loss of habitat and the potential for increased erosion due to loss of bank stabilizing root structure. In order to minimize effects to wildlife habitat, a good strategy is to stick to the removal of built up brush and selective non-native weed removal. If larger patches of vegetation need to be removed there should be measures to stabilize the bank from erosion for the temporary (i.e., straw wattles) and long term (i.e., seed mix, and native plantings). Other things to think about include potential to impact breeding birds and if the work requires people or equipment to enter a wetted creek.

Fish and Wildlife Code Section 1600 requires notification about projects that may alter any river, stream, or lake. The Lake and Streambed Alteration program is in place to protect sensitive streambed habitats and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) may be required if a project may substantially adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. If a project is determined to potentially

impact a streambed area (has a bed, bank, and/or channel), it is up to the project proponent to submit a notification to Fish and Wildlife through the department's online portal at: https://epims.wildlife.ca.gov/index.do.

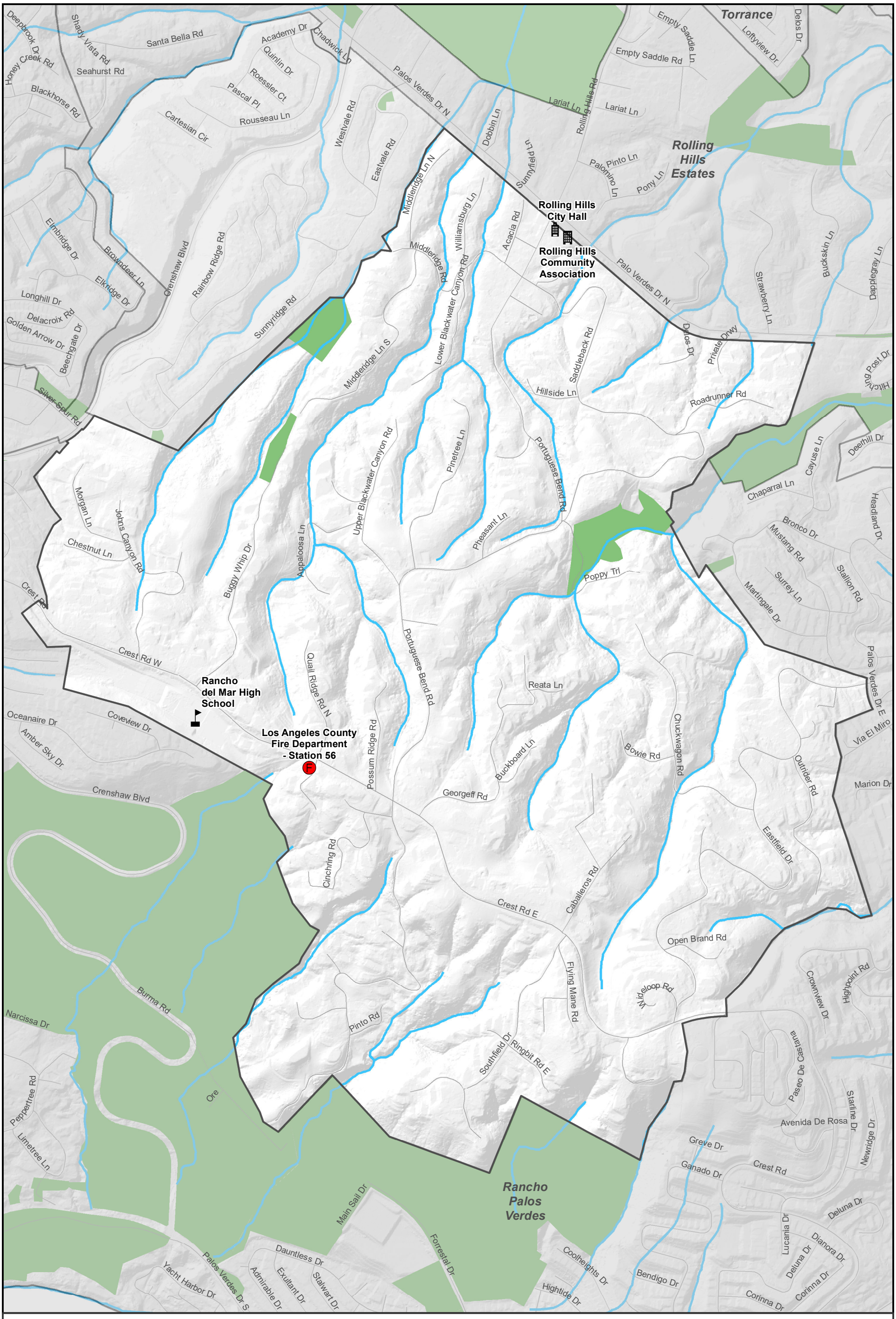
Based on the Los Angeles County Fire Department's assessment, eleven canyons were prioritized for fire fuel removal. According to the Department, Portuguese Bend Canyon is a big canyon that encompasses Ishibashi Canyon. Forrestal Canyon is another big canyon that encompasses the Klondike Canyon. The smaller areas of big canyons may not show in maps and because of that, there may be confusion when the smaller areas of big canyons are referenced but not found on maps. Per the Committee's request, staff consulted with several sources of mapping and as a part of this report, several maps are provided to locate steams and canyons.

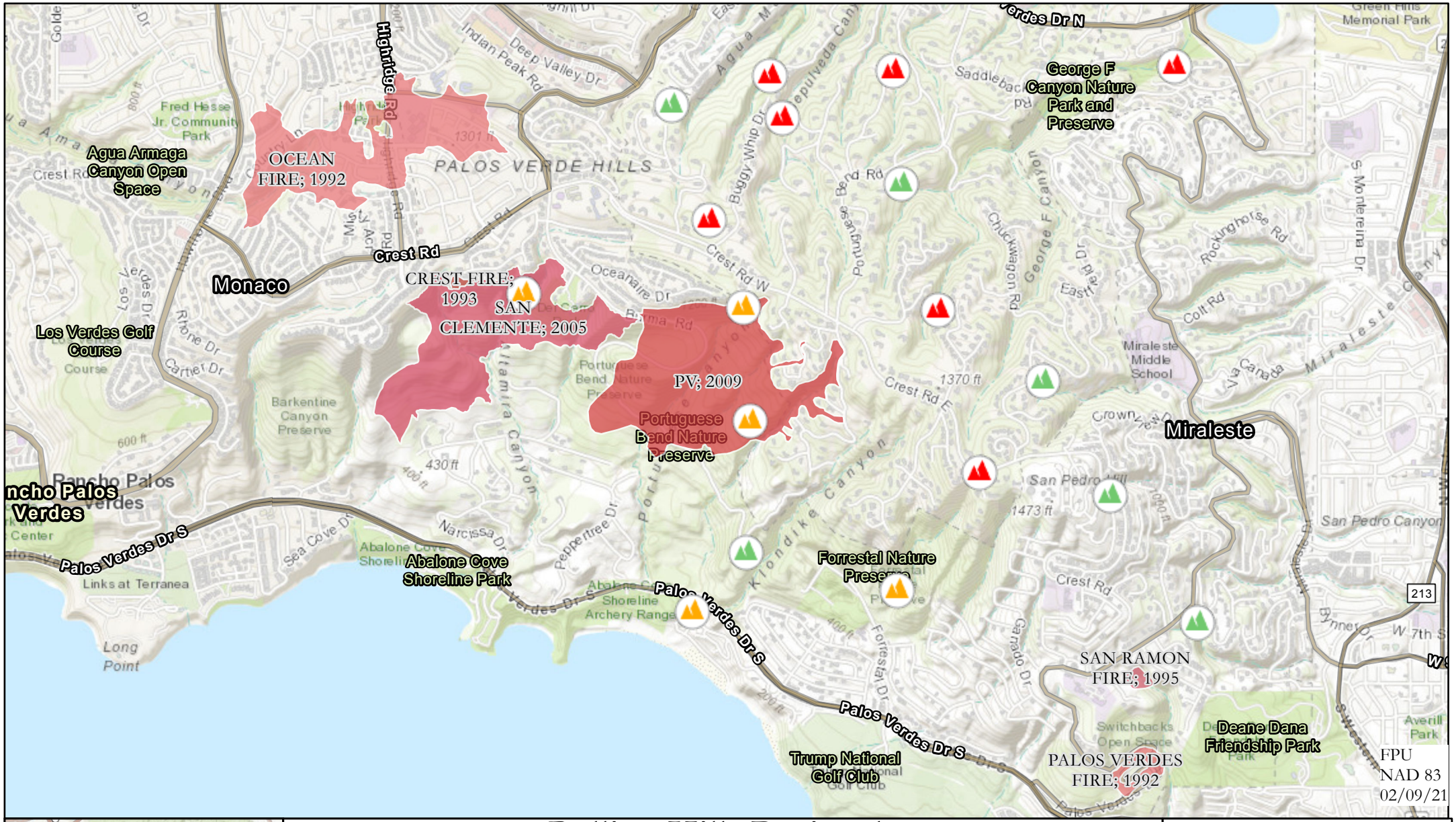
FISCAL IMPACT:
Staff's research of maps of streams and canyons for the City of Rolling Hills is a part of the operational cost for FY2020-2021.

RECOMMENDATION:
If you would like to view the Blue Line Stream Maps go to:

https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=12b73ea284d54339be1305085881f7b5
Wake County Government United States Geological Survey (USGS) Blue Line Streams (GIS), using Chrome or Mozilla Browser.

ATTACHMENTS:
Blue Line Streams_Map_20210527.pdf
Map of fire risks in the canyons.pdf
SUPPLEMENTAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT.docx
Supplemental RH CANYONS.pdf


Torrance
Rolling Hills Estates
Rolling Hills City Hall
Rolling Hills Community Association
Rancho del Mar High School
Los Angeles County Fire Department - Station 56
Rancho Palos Verdes
Deepbrook Dr
Honey Creek Rd
Shady Vista Rd
Santa Bella Rd
Seahurst Rd
Blackhorse Rd
Academy Dr
Quinlin Dr
Roessler Ct
Pascal Pl
Rousseau Ln
Cartesian Cir
Chadwick Ln
Palos Verdes Dr N
Westvale Rd
Eastvale Rd
Middleridge Ln N
Middleridge Rd
Middleridge Ln S
Williamsburg Ln
Lower Blackwater Canyon Rd
Upper Blackwater Canyon Rd
Dobbin Ln
Sunnyfield Ln
Rolling Hills Rd
Empty Saddle Ln
Empty Saddle Rd
Loftyview Dr
Delos Dr
Lariat Ln
Palomino Ln
Pony Ln
Acacia Rd
Palo Verdes Dr N
Strawberry Ln
Buckskin Ln
Dapplegray Ln
Saddleback Rd
Private Drwy
Hillside Ln
Roadrunner Rd
Hitching Post Dr
Elmbridge Dr
Browndeer Ln
Elkridge Dr
Longhill Dr
Delacroix Rd
Golden Arrow Dr
Beechgate Dr
Crenshaw Blvd
Rainbow Ridge Rd
Sunnyridge Rd
Silver Spur Rd
Morgan Ln
Johns Canyon Rd
Chestnut Ln
Buggy Whip Dr
Appaloosa Ln
Pinetree Ln
Pheasant Ln
Portuguese Bend Rd
Portuguese Bend Rd
Crest Rd
Crest Rd W
Quail Ridge Rd N
Possum Ridge Rd
Cinchring Rd
Oceanaire Dr
Coveview Dr
Amber Sky Dr
Crenshaw Blvd
Burma Rd
Narcissa Dr
Peppertree Rd
Limetree Ln
Ore
Pinto Rd
Flying Mane Rd
Southfield Dr
Ringbit Rd E
Wildeloop Rd
Crest Rd E
Caballeros Rd
Open Brand Rd
Poppy Trl
Reata Ln
Buckboard Ln
Georgeff Rd
Bowie Rd
Chuckwagon Rd
Outrider Rd
Eastfield Dr
Marion Dr
Via El Miro
Palos Verdes Dr E
Chaparral Ln
Cayuse Ln
Deerhill Dr
Headland Dr
Bronco Dr
Mustang Rd
Surrey Ln
Martingale Dr
Stallion Rd
Highpoint Rd
Crownview Dr
Paseo De Cassana
Starline Dr
Newridge Dr
Avenida De Rosa
Greve Dr
Ganado Dr
Crest Rd
Deluna Dr
Lucania Dr
Dianora Dr
Corinna Dr
Bendigo Dr
Coolheights Dr
Hightide Dr
Forrestal Dr
Main Sail Dr
Dauntless Dr
Admirable Dr
Exultant Dr
Stalwart Dr
Yacht Harbor Dr
Palos Verdes Dr S
City of Rolling Hills
Map of Streams
Incorporated Areas
Unincorporated Areas
Parks and Open Space
Streams
Roads
N
Miles
0
0.2
0.4
Map created by Christine Lam (CLam@dpw.lacounty.gov)
Los Angeles County Public Works 5/27/2021





Rolling Hills Peninsula:
Fire History and Canyons at Risk
(1992 to 2020)

Historical Fire Year: 1992 1993 1995 2005 2009

Potential Fire Risk From: North East South West Other

N

0 0.5 1 Km

0 0.5 1 Mi

Supplemental

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
PRIORITY CANYON LOCATIONS FOR FIRE FUEL REMOVAL

List provided to April 14, 2021 Community Focus Group Participants

The Los Angeles County Fire Department conducted site visits in Rolling Hills between December 2020 and February 2021 to identify priority locations to apply the recently awarded CalOES/FEMA Grant for vegetation management in the canyons.

The Fire Department assessed 11 canyons and prioritized canyons based on directional winds. Canyons at risk from wind driven fires originating from the southwest are as follows:

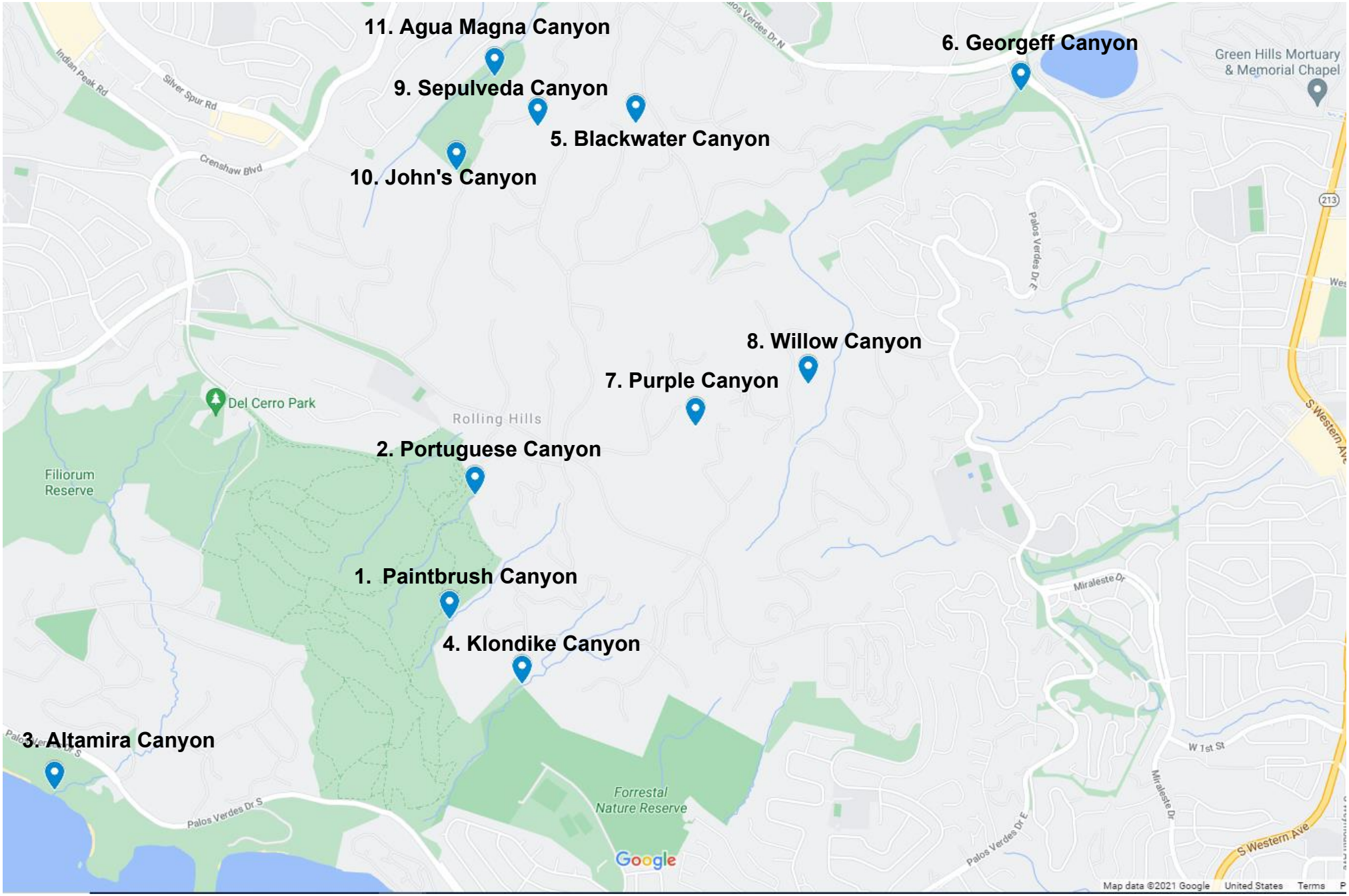
1. Paint Brush Canyon
2. Portuguese Canyon (This canyon encompasses Ishibashi Canyon)
3. Altamira Canyon
4. Klondike Canyon (Klondike Canyon is inside the Forrestal Canyon

Based on fire history maps, these above listed south facing canyons have the highest risk for a wildfire in the future.

Canyons that would be at risk during northeast winds are as follows:

5. Blackwater Canyon
6. George F. Canyon
7. Purple Canyon
8. Willow Canyon
9. Sepulveda Canyon
10. John's Canyon
11. Agua Magna Canyon

Supplemental
City of Rolling Hills Canyons



Agenda Item No.: 2.B
Mtg. Date: 06/02/2021

TO: **HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

FROM: **ELAINE JENG, CITY MANAGER**

THRU: **ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **REVIEW THE PROPOSED FIRE FUEL MANAGEMENT IN THE CANYONS PROGRAM AND RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO ALLOCATE BUDGET ANNUALLY FOR THE PROPOSED PROGRAM.**

DATE: **June 02, 2021**

BACKGROUND:
In response to the community's feedback that the amount of fire fuel in the canyons is a major safety concern, the City Council created a standing committee, the Fire Fuel Committee, to tackle the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Black and Councilmember Mirsch were assigned to the committee at the April 26, 2021 meeting and since then the committee held three meetings on May 5, 2021, May 12, 2021 and May 19, 2021. To kick off the committee's charter, Councilmember Mirsch also collected feedback from the community at a focus group held on April 14, 2021.

Over the course of three meetings, the committee discussed a variety of topics, all of which were intended to support the community in managing fire fuel to reduce wildfire risks.

DISCUSSION:
Based on the community's input, the committee's discussions, the City Council's discussion, legal counsel's findings on public benefit, and the recommendations of the subject matter experts - the Los Angeles County Fire Department, staff is proposing the following fire fuel management program to commence in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

- City to fund one fire fuel abatement project in the community annually using general fund.
- The location of the fire fuel abatement project should be based on the priority areas assessed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department starting with the location or area determined to present the highest level of wildfire risk.
- The Los Angeles County Fire Department will assist the City in determining the proper scope of work for abatement projects annually.
- The City will fund the environmental assessment, and clearance. The City will also fund the abatement work based on a capped allocation set by the City Council, provided that the City's budget can support the expenditure. Budgetary constraints will be evaluated annually and the cap

on the allocation can be set annually during the budget workshop.

- Working with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the City shall notify property owners within the fire fuel abatement project areas and achieve property owners' permission for abatement work. In exchange for the abatement work, property owners must consent to a maintenance period for the initial abatement work funded by the City. If the majority property owners do not provide permission and or consent to the maintenance period, the City will select another location for fire fuel abatement based on the priority list assessed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The proposal above aims to address the community's desire for action, the appropriate scope of work, the potential environmental impacts to the habitat, and providing an on-going program to tackle an ongoing issue.

FISCAL IMPACT:
The City does not currently have data on the cost of fire fuel abatement in the canyons. The cost may be heavily dependent on the locations of work. But to have a reference point, the Committee can direct staff to inquire with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy the cost to abate fire fuel in the Nature Preserve. That data could be used as a comparable average cost per acre to determine the cap for the annual allocation for fire fuel abatement projects in Rolling Hills. Additionally, the Committee can direct staff to seek relevant data from the Los Angeles County Fire Department for abatement work elsewhere in the County for reference.

RECOMMENDATION:
Review the proposed program from staff and consider recommending the proposed program to the City Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

City of Rolling Hills INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 2.C
Mtg. Date: 06/02/2021

TO: **HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

FROM: **ELAINE JENG, CITY MANAGER**

THRU: **ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **DISCUSS (1) REGULATOR VERSUS VOLUNTARY APPROACH TO FUEL MANAGEMENT IN THE CANYONS; (2) DISCUSS IF THE CITY SHOULD CONSIDER GIVING THE COMMUNITY A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO MANAGE FUEL IN THE CANYONS; AND (3) CONSIDER CONDUCTING AN ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES THAT PRESENT A HAZARD TO THE COMMUNITY.**

DATE: **June 02, 2021**

BACKGROUND:
At the May 19, 2021 Fire Fuel Committee meeting, Committee member Leah Mirsch suggested that at the next committee meeting, the committee discuss if the City should consider additional regulations to mandate fire fuel management in the canyons or continue with the current voluntary approach. Committee member Mirsch also suggested that the committee discuss if the City should consider providing a financial incentive to the community to manage fuel in the canyons.

At the May 24, 2021 City Council meeting, Committee member Mirsch asked to add another agenda item to the June 2, 2021 Fire Fuel Committee meeting: discuss evaluating properties that present a hazard to the community.

DISCUSSION:
None.

FISCAL IMPACT:
None.

RECOMMENDATION:
Discuss topics and develop recommendations for City Council consideration.

ATTACHMENTS: