

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Community Recovery Coordination Council (c/o Sue Kohl & Chris Spitz)

FROM: Evacuation Capabilities Advisory Task Force (via Joe Iacopino & Kathrin Werner)

DATE: June 2, 2026

Evacuation Capabilities ATF Comments & Recommendations re LTRP

INTRODUCTION

The Evacuation Capabilities Advisory Task Force has not completed its analysis and efforts regarding the assessment of community needs and goals regarding evacuation capabilities. Inadequate time has been allotted for such completion to this juncture. The following is not intended to be a comprehensive final analysis or final report but rather is intended to be a preliminary initial listing of comments and recommendations based upon incomplete efforts engaged in to date. It is anticipated that, after additional efforts and assessments by this ATF, we may have further important comments and recommendations.

COMMENTS

In general, the draft LTRP appears to set forth a limited variety of needs and goals in regard to evacuation capabilities. It does not appear to be comprehensive and it is lacking in specificity and granularity.

The assessment of the draft LTRP by the Evacuation Capabilities Advisory Task Force concludes that actions in addition to those listed in the draft LTRP should be taken, and there should be more and better specification of actions that should be taken to help our community recover from the utter devastation wreaked upon us by the Palisades Fire and mitigate against potential adverse consequences from future emergencies and disasters.

Evacuation Capabilities in Pacific Palisades are EXTREMELY LIMITED. During the January 7, 2025 Palisades Fire, the community was unable to evacuate promptly due to major traffic congestion – too many residents attempting to flee via inadequate thoroughfares without adequate routes of egress. There is serious concern about the possibility of any increase in density bonus and any increase affordable housing projects, all of which could further impair evacuation capabilities and lead to a decrease in evacuation capability, and an increase in catastrophic results, injury and death. All such density bonus projects should be discontinued until an adequate reliable study demonstrates that such projects will not have significant adverse effects on evacuation capabilities, and street traffic in general.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REQUESTS

Establish, Adequately Communicate & Strictly Enforce LAFD Policy of Complete Double-Checked and Tested Fire Extinguishment – **DO NOT ABANDON A FIRE SITE UNTIL 100% POSITIVE IT IS 100% COLD**

Develop Adequate System for Detailed Communication regarding Evacuation & Emergency Information (such as, or similar to, the WISSLE App)

Undertake Adequate Re-Mapping of TAZs & Special Generators

Undertake Adequate Evacuation Modeling

Install Sirens/Establish Adequate Audio Warning System(s)

Achieve Adequate Cell Phone Connectivity – **WiFi can be Delivered Through Streetlight Poles** via Backhaul Systems with Small Cell Antennae that can be incorporated directly into streetlight poles (e.g. see Resilient Streetlights through Base Studio: <https://basestud.io>)

Otherwise, Installation of Cell Towers Would Be an Absolutely Essential Necessity, Subject to Advance Notice and Community Input as to the Location and Design of any proposed Freestanding Cell Towers.

Install Adequate Radio Repeaters & Achieve Adequate Radio Transmission Capability

Develop Starlink Communications Support Capability

Include Fiber Conduit in the Current Undergrounding Project. Missing that window would be a seriously regrettable missed opportunity for the community. Underground fiber optics is the gold standard. Beyond fiber, SIM cards backed by satellite would provide a strong secondary option. (Viasat, based in Carlsbad, might be a particularly good satellite choice given their government and military grade reliability. For the Palisades, with its many enclaves, canyons, and terrain, we would likely need both fiber and satellite working together. 5G will always struggle in this environment due to the topography.)

Expediently Repair and Maintain Highlands (Santa Inez) Reservoir for Permanent Constant Availability of Water for Fire Suppression

Maintain Palisades Reservoir (top of Chautauqua Blvd) for Permanent Constant Availability of Water for Fire Suppression

Installation of Additional Dedicated Water Storage Containers and/or System that Constantly Maintains Access to Adequate Water for Fire Suppression

Install Adequate Evacuation Gate System at Top & Bottom of Lachman Lane

Improve Fire Road between Upper Lachman Lane & Monte Hermosa Drive

Develop Adequate Escape Route through Upper Paseo Miramar (Connect Pacific View Street to Palisades Drive?)

Develop Adequate Escape Route through Upper Castellammare (Establish egress through Getty Villa? Bellino Drive to Getty Villa Drive?)

Close Trailheads & Ban Recreational Hiking While Red Flag Warnings are in Effect

Institute Tiered / Phased Alert System (Warn Single-Access Sub-Zones such as Paseo Miramar, Highlands, Temescal) Before Community-Wide Orders (via WISSLE app or similar)

Implement Contraflow on Sunset Blvd & PCH (activate at "Watch" stage)

Create Plan for Access & Functional Needs Residents and Large-Animal / Equine Evacuation

Pre-Position Aerial / Water-Drop Assets in the Hills Ahead of Forecast High-Wind Events

Establish Fire Breaks / Fuel-Management Buffers Around Neighborhoods Adjacent to Parklands and Vulnerable Areas

Develop Adequate Escape Route through Upper Palisades Highlands (Connect Calle de Palermo and/or Camino De Yatasto to East Topanga Fire Road?)

Open and Regain Emergency Access to the Fire Road Between Enchanted Way and Lachman Lane (owned by LADWP but access currently blocked by a local resident)

Develop Adequate Escape Route through Upper Riviera (Connect Alta Mura Road or San Remo Drive to Old Ranch Road?)

Connect Upper Temescal to Upper Chautauqua Blvd or Top of Monument Street

Connect Mandeville Canyon Road to W. Mandeville Fire Road and/or Mulholland Drive

Connect Top of Rivas Canyon Road with Chautauqua Blvd and/or Villa Woods Drive

Re-Design/Widen Intersection of Chautauqua & PCH

Add a third Left Turn Lane from Temescal onto PCH

Establish Shelter-in-Place Centers

Install & Maintain functional Helipad at Highlands (Santa Inez) Reservoir and if feasible, at Palisades Reservoir - Strategically place alternative Helipad(s)

Explore options for non-toxic fire prevention applications, such as Citro-Tech, and apply such treatments where feasible

Adopt Early Fire Detection System (e.g. Satellite system such as FireSat
<https://sites.research.google/gr/wildfires/firesat/>)

Support Public Education and Promote Public Awareness as to RYLAN Training, CERT Training, Emergency Communications, Radio Training, Home Hardening, Fire Protection, Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness (frequent communications to the public via news media, social media, direct mail, email, local text threads)

Offer Financial Incentives for Home Hardening

Offer Financial Incentives for Installation of Solar Power

Establish Adequate Alternative Incident Command Centers

Establish Adequate Alternative Evacuation Centers

Increase LAFD firefighting capability – Equipment and Personnel

Increase Police Presence – add personnel, establish substation, trailer or other capable base of operations

Adequately Define and Publish Evacuation Standards

Adequately Define and publicize Red Flag Conditions, Restrictions and Protocols

Install Signs at Trailheads and other locations regarding Red Flag Conditions and Protocols

Institute Enforcement of Red Flag Restrictions

Provide Traffic Control Personnel Immediately to All Key Intersections with Sunset Blvd to Override Traffic lights and Ensure Flow of Vehicles Exiting from Intersecting Side Streets

Train Local Volunteers to Direct Traffic until City Personnel are Present

Promptly Transport Traffic Controllers into Palisades by Helicopter – Shuttle to Traffic Control Sites

Hold Community Drills to Learn & Practice Evacuation Procedures

Consider Posting Signage and/or Notices within Communities to Direct Traffic Most Efficiently

Continue Efforts to Assess Feasibility and Desirability of Single Side of Street Parking at All Times in Appropriate Locations

Widen Narrowest Roads to the extent that widening is feasible

Asilomar View Park, El Medio Bluffs - (No ranger present): Quarterly Park & Recs maintenance of brush along Asilomar Ave, to Fire code. LAFD Enforcement of Bluff slope plants and brush to

code. (Private Property LAPD Enforcement of posted City regulations including: no smoking, Park closed sunset to sunrise.

George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon and Via de las Olas Bluffs - (No ranger present):

Quarterly Park & Recs maintenance of brush in Canyon, along Canyon rim at Friends St., and along Via de las Olas bluff tops, to Fire code. LAFD Enforcement of Canyon and Bluffs slope plants and brush to code. (Private Property LAPD Enforcement of posted City regulations including: no smoking, Park closed sunset to sunrise.)

Mobile Home Parks: Tahitian Terrace and Palisades Bowl: Provide an escape route for 500 mobile home residents to higher ground In Tsunami or flood AND Provide escape route for El Medio Bluffs residents to exit Bluffs to Pacific Coast Hway in fire. Both Mobile home parks are trapped between Pacific Coast Hway and steep El Medio Bluffs with a single entrance/exit to and from Pacific Coast Highway. Rebuild collapsed fire road from Tahitian Terrace flats to Puerta Del Mar, on the El Medio Bluffs. Install Additional Fire Hydrants in Mobile Home Park.

Via Mesa/Via Bluffs: Provide escape routes for residents to exit from narrow streets and streets with single access routes to Pacific Coast Hway, via Temescal Canyon Rd., Via de la Paz or Sunset Blvd. in fire.

Fill Potholes & Repair Roads ASAP

Remove unnecessary speed bumps that impede evacuation (e.g. Bienvenida Ave)

Install Fire Hydrants on Opposite Sides of Main Streets so that hoses in use do not cross streets and block egress during evacuations (E.g. On Palisades Drive)

Install Additional Fire Hydrant on Friends St. which LAFD and LADWP have Informed Residents is Required by Code.

Undertake Investigation and Conduct Repairs Needed to Ensure that Water Pressure is Adequate and All Fire Hydrants are Functioning Properly.

Designate a Dedicated Public Information Officer Team to Serve During All Crisis Events and a Unified Contact List for Community/Comms Groups/Leaders

Regular and Coordinated Updates and/or Training Sessions with Neighboring Public Safety Agencies (use PCHTaskforce format) (CALTRANS, LASD, SMPD, SMFD, LACo, OES, EMD)

[Note: The PCH Taskforce is a regional coalition of local and state officials, law enforcement, traffic engineers, and community advocates dedicated to improving safety and reducing reckless driving along the Pacific Coast Highway. Their jurisdiction spans from McClure Tunnel in Santa Monica through Malibu & unincorporated LA County to the Ventura County line.

Create Secondary, Coordinated SAFE areas for Temporary Sheltering in Place (Rec Ctr, Village, Will Rogers, etc.) Depending on the Crisis with LA City support.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Based on the LTRP’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan (“CWPP”) (RSF 6, pp. 203–204), it appears that the LTRP’s principal written document outlining the overall wildfire resilience strategy for the City at large and Pacific Palisades, including evacuation planning, mitigation priorities, and interagency coordination, is to be prepared by MySafe:LA ostensibly in coordination with LAFD. Given the significance of such a document, it should be widely disseminated for public review and expert vetting well in advance of adoption. It should also be analyzed and vetted by the appropriate CRCC ATFs. While outside expertise can play an important supporting role, under the current draft LTRP, the CWPP would effectively serve as the City’s foundational wildfire resilience and evacuation planning document. This is NOT presently acceptable and warrants adequate scrutiny by the community and, ultimately, approval and issuance by the City government.

The City should **NOT** rely heavily on programs and companies such as the Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance, MySafe:LA, or other private companies or nonprofit organizations (even if affiliated with or partnered with the City or LAFD) for evacuation planning, public education or guidance, or taking actions to achieve recovery, development and resilience in the Palisades, all of which should come directly from trusted official City sources in conjunction with designated community representatives. (MySafe:LA’s website states that it is operating under the Safe Community Project charity umbrella. The Safe Community Project describes itself as a 501(c)(3) public-benefit charity organization.) (The Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance states that it is a public/private partnership between the Los Angeles City Fire Department and MySafe:LA)

Evacuation Capabilities Advisory Task Force Members

Joe Iacopino (co-lead)

Kathrin Werner (co-lead)

Jenny Rogers

Karen Ridgley

Carmel Kadrnka

Patti Post

Jodie Rea

Josie Tong

Karen Ridgley

Cindi Young

Bart Young

Hank Wright