



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2007

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
MEDIA ADVISORY**

City Working to Secure Areas for Repopulation

Areas Reopened and Specific Voluntary Evacuations Lifted

MAYOR ANNOUNCES REPOPULATION OF DEL MAR HIGHLANDS/CARMEL VALLEY AREA

Mayor Sanders has announced that residents in the Del Mar Highlands/Carmel Valley area within the City limits will be allowed to repopulate their homes today. The reopened area is:

NORTH of Highway 56,
WEST of Rancho Santa Fe Farms Road,
SOUTH of the San Diego County jurisdiction limits, and
EAST of Interstate 5

VOLUNTARY EVACUATION LIFTED FOR OTAY MESA

The voluntary evacuation order for the Otay Mesa area has been lifted. The areas affected by the lifted order are:

NORTH of the U.S. Border,
WEST of Alta Road,
SOUTH of Main Street, and
EAST of Interstate 805

REPOPULATION CONTINUES IN AREAS REOPENED YESTERDAY

The repopulation effort continues for areas affected by the Witch fire that were reopened yesterday. Those areas include areas in the City of San Diego, Del Mar Heights and the City of

Del Mar. In addition, repopulation of the Scripps Ranch area reopened yesterday continues today.

Repopulation continues in:

Areas of the City of San Diego, Del Mar Heights and the City of Del Mar

NORTH of Torrey Pines State Beach,
WEST of Interstate 5, and
SOUTH of Via de la Valle

Areas of Scripps Ranch

NORTH of MCAS Miramar,
WEST of Sycamore Canyon Road,
SOUTH of Beeler Canyon Road, and
EAST of Interstate 15

RESIDENTS RETURNING TO PARADISE HILLS AREA

Residents continue to return to the Paradise Hills area of San Diego that had been under a voluntary evacuation order. That order has been lifted and residents are free to return to their homes. The area once under order was:

NORTH of Highway 54,
WEST of Highway 125,
SOUTH of Imperial Avenue/Lemon Grove Avenue, and
EAST of Valencia Parkway

MANDATORY EVACUATIONS REMAIN IN PLACE FOR CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY

The City of San Diego Fire Department continues to reinforce **MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDERS** for certain areas affected by the Witch Fire. The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department continues to assess the safety of these areas and will be assessing **possible** repopulation efforts later today. Many structures in these areas are still smoldering so no commitments regarding repopulation can be made. Announcements about repopulation efforts will be later today for:

1. **San Pasqual Valley** – South of the City of Escondido, West of Guejito Truck Trail, East of Interstate 15 and North of Highland Valley Road.
2. **North Rancho Bernardo** – South of Highland Valley Road, West of the City of Poway, East of Interstate 15 and North of Rancho Bernardo Road.
3. **West Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, 4S Ranch and Santa Luz** – South of Lake Hodges, West of Interstate 15, East of Rancho Santa Fe Road and North of Highway 56.

CITY PLANNING TO ESTABLISH LOCAL ASSISTANCE CENTER IN RANCHO BERNARDO

The City of San Diego, working in coordination with other government agencies, will be opening a Local Assistance Center in Rancho Bernardo as soon as residents are allowed back into that community. The location for that center will be announced at a later time. City Agencies, FEMA, other government agencies and private insurance companies will be represented at the center. More information about the Local Assistance Center will be released as it becomes available.

RESIDENTS CAN HELP FIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS FROM HOME

Mayor Sanders is calling on everyone in San Diego to assist in fire recovery efforts by:

- **Staying home** if at all possible to reduce traffic impacts for those fighting the fires
- **Remaining indoors** to avoid the affects of poor air quality caused by smoke from the fires
- **Conserving power** by turning off lights and household appliances. The City has been affected by the loss of major electrical transmission lines into the county and must conserve power wherever possible until those lines are repaired.
- **Limiting cell phone** use at all times. Emergency response personnel rely on cell phones for certain communication needs and must have clear signals to effectively coordinate their efforts.

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