

INTERAGENCY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

TO AFFIRM AGREEMENT OF PARTIES TO COLLABORATE
ON THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS FIRE SAFE ALLIANCE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES – Weed Abatement Division
FIRE DEPARTMENT – Division VII and Forestry Division
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

WATERWORKS DISTRICT 29

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS**

LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

**UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – Los Angeles County Sustainable
and Fire Safe Landscapes Program**

March 2014

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is effective on _____ by
and between the following agencies:

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT (SD3)

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES – Weed Abatement Division

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Division VII and Forestry Division

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

WATERWORKS DISTRICT 29

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SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS**

LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

**UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – Los Angeles County Sustainable
and Fire Safe Landscapes Program**

The Parties together are known as the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTIANS FIRE SAFE ALLIANCE

Whereas, the Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance (hereinafter referred to as the Alliance) was convened under the leadership of the County of Los Angeles, Third Supervisorial District, and includes the above-named Los Angeles County Departments: and other local, state, federal, and municipal agencies, hereinafter known as the Parties.

Whereas, the Parties agree that the mission of the SMM Fire Safe Alliance, a collaboration of related public agencies, Los Angeles County departments and communities, is to find solutions and resources for property owners and land managers to improve stewardship in the wildland urban interface. Integration of best management practices will create defensible space while protecting wildland. The Alliance will help create safer communities and protect natural areas by involving and educating stakeholders, sharing information, and locating and providing beneficial resources.

Whereas, the Parties agree that the SMM Fire Safe Alliance is a collaboration of public agencies consisting of State, Federal, County and local agencies, and communities in the Santa Monica Mountains dedicated to working together to find solutions and resources for property owners and land managers in the wildland-urban interface areas.

Whereas, the SMM Fire Safe Alliance was formed in 2007 after the Malibu Canyon and Corral Canyon fires and have continued to meet and conduct activities consistent with the Mission of the Alliance. The Parties have met regularly to integrate best management practices for creating defensible space while protecting life, property, and the environment in the Santa Monica Mountains.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

I. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this MOU is to set forth the Parties' mutual understandings, commitments, and protocols with respect to developing and implementation of fire-prevention strategies in the Santa Monica Mountain communities. The Los Angeles County Departments and the other agencies that are a party to this MOU are committed to mutual cooperation and communication in order to identify and promote Best Management Practices that reduce fire

hazards, while protecting the natural environment and communities within the Santa Monica Mountain communities.

- B. The Parties acknowledge their respective agency obligations, pursuant to laws and codes which govern the operation of the respective entities that may be beyond the scope of this MOU.

II. TERM

- A. The term of this MOU shall commence on _____ and shall continue in full force and effect until terminated by any of the Parties, with or without cause, upon the giving of at least 30 days written notice to the other Parties.
- B. The Parties commit to each other to work cooperatively in the implementation of this MOU and to resolving any problems or concerns that might develop, in lieu of terminating this MOU. The MOU may accordingly be revised from time to time to reflect agreed-upon changes.

III. AGENCIES PROTOCOLS

Each Party agrees that it maintains its own policies pertaining to its agency's protocols for vegetation management and brush clearance in the Santa Monica Mountains. Although each department or agency will have its own protocols, the Parties agree that it is important and necessary to have inter-agency communication on a regular basis.

The County Departments and other Parties to this MOU acknowledge that it is a matter of the utmost importance for them to have clear lines of communication among them regarding public and private properties in the Santa Monica Mountains wildland interface. Among other things, the Parties have identified or will identify key personnel for these purposes and provided each other's telephone numbers for emergency contact information which will be updated on a quarterly basis jointly with the Third Supervisorial District. The Parties will also participate in regularly scheduled Alliance meetings to be determined by the Alliance for the purposes of improving communications, updating of new policies or changes in agencies practices and protocols. Finally, the Parties agree to meet on an as-needed basis to address concerns, improve information sharing and to address issues that threaten or challenge a fire-safe environment.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES

- A. All the Parties to this MOU agree to promote the goals and objectives of the Santa Monica Mountains Mountain Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) fully executed on June 6, 2013. All Parties commit to intra-agency collaboration to provide necessary communication and information sharing amongst the Santa Monica Mountain stakeholders to understand public agencies activities that make people and the environment safer in the Santa Monica Mountain communities.
- B. All Parties agree to work collaboratively to promote the goals and objectives of the Santa Monica Mountains CWPP to develop fire prevention strategies in the Santa Monica Mountain communities to:
- (1) reduce fire hazards; (2) create defensible space which includes fire-safe vegetation management planning and fuel modification strategies to reduce structure ignitibility while protecting the environment on both public and private lands; (3) identify priority projects to reduce risk and hazards from wildfire at the neighborhood or community level; (4) provide community input to public land management agencies within the Santa Monica Mountains; and (5) collaborate with the community and other agencies to leverage public and private resources for a fire-safe environment in the Santa Monica Mountains.
- C. If any of the agencies to this MOU determines that a matter falls within its jurisdiction, it will proceed in accordance with its agencies policies and procedures for vegetation management/fuel modification and it will assume the initiative as the lead agency for handling such issue.
- D. All parties commit to intra-agency communication and involvement for the purpose of ensuring a fire-safe environment in the Santa Monica Mountain communities in accordance with the CWPP. In the event a situation should arise and determination needs to be made about an area of responsibility, a meeting or telephone conference will be held among prospective agencies to resolve such issue. If an issue falls within an agency's jurisdiction or in multiple jurisdictions, the Third Supervisorial District shall take the initiative to ensure that the appropriate contact person(s) at the

agency is/are informed, as well as any other Party or other appropriate agency (ies) that may not be a party to this MOU.

The following entities mutually agree with the understandings set forth in this MOU.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
Date: _____

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/
WEIGHTS AND MEASURE
Weed Abatement Division
Date: _____

FIRE DEPARTMENT:
Division VII
Date: _____

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Forestry Division
Date: _____

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Date: _____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Date: _____

WATERWORKS DISTRICT #29,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Date: _____

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Date: _____

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY

Date: _____

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND RECREATION

Date: _____

CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Date: _____

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL
RECREATION AREA

Date: _____

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Date: _____

LAS VIRGINES MUNICIAPL WATER
DISTRICT

Date: _____

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Los Angeles County Sustainable and
Fire Safe Landscapes Program

Date: _____