

City Councilwoman Jen Campbell
City of San Diego
202 C Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Councilmember Dr. Jen Campbell,

The Peninsula Community Planning Group is following up on our January 27, 2023, request regarding the need for a formal Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan for the Point Loma Peninsula. As part of the yearly Capital Improvement Budget process, the Planning Group requested that the City Department of Emergency Services and Fire-Rescue Department work to develop a comprehensive emergency and evacuation plan for our community.

Recent wildfires in Southern California and the challenges communities faced in evacuating safely have increased our awareness for the need of an evacuation and emergency response plan. Our community, located on the Point Loma Peninsula, is vulnerable to various hazardous events, and the Peninsula Community Planning Board is reiterating our request that the City of San Diego prioritize the development of a plan.

With over 50,000 residents living in the Point Loma, Loma Portal, and Ocean Beach neighborhoods, our community is served by five major roadways for ingress and egress: Rosecrans St., Sunset Cliffs Blvd, North Harbor Drive, and Nimitz Blvd. These roadways and intersections frequently experience heavy congestion, with service levels of D or F during normal peak hours. In the event of an emergency evacuation, the community would be faced with gridlock, putting the safety and well-being of residents at severe risk. This was evident during recent California wildfires when communities struggled to evacuate in a timely manner.

A portion of the peninsula adjacent to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). In addition, the Point Loma community faces several other major hazards that may require evacuation, including the potential for tsunamis, seismic events, and hazardous material incidents (Point Loma Tank Farm).

The Peninsula Community Planning Board requests that the City Department of Emergency Services develop a comprehensive evacuation plan that includes and recommends enhanced Traffic Flow Strategies, Traffic Signal Monitoring and Coordination, and Roadway Improvements to increase traffic capacity.

We request that the City Council prioritize the development of a comprehensive emergency and evacuation plan for the Point Loma Peninsula, as the safe evacuation of our residents depends on a well-organized response plan. We appreciate your attention to this matter and support in ensuring the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Fred Kosmo Jr.

Chair Peninsula Community Planning Board