



## **COASTAL FIRE – SIX MONTH UPDATE NOVEMBER 2022**

Six months ago, on May 11, 2022, a vegetation fire began in the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park in the City of Laguna Beach. Unfortunately, strong winds shifted the wildfire, now known as the Coastal Fire, toward the Coronado Pointe neighborhood in the City of Laguna Niguel. Fueled by thick brush, strong winds, and steep topography, the fire prompted a mandatory evacuation of 900 homes. While emergency personnel from the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), CAL FIRE, the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD), and surrounding agencies combatted the blaze and conducted evacuations, the City rapidly mobilized its Emergency Operations Center and opened a temporary welcome and reception shelter for evacuees and their animals. Over the following days, 200 acres were burned, 20 structures were destroyed, and 12 additional structures were damaged. Over 550 Firefighters from across the region and all firefighting air support south of Fresno were on the scene to tackle the blaze, which was fully contained on May 18, 2022.

As the City has shifted from the Coastal Fire 'Response Stage' to a 'Recovery Stage,' it continues to actively assist the impacted homeowners and the Coronado Pointe Homeowners Association. Throughout this process, the City worked closely with impacted neighborhoods to ensure a safe return home, including securing unsafe properties with perimeter fencing and providing free access to dumpsters and wastebins to dispose of items such as spoiled food and smoke-damaged property. The City has also further aided in cleanup efforts of the evacuated neighborhoods, including the completion of additional street sweeping and trash pickups. A significant amount of sand/gravel bags have also been made available to homeowners in the Coronado Pointe neighborhood to assist with deterring erosion due to seasonal rain. All services were provided at no additional cost to residents.

Taking a concierge style approach to recovery, the City created a staff-led Coastal Fire Response Team in the Community Development Department. The response team is working with impacted homeowners to expedite building permits and plan checks. Personalized informational packets specific to their property were distributed to all homeowners outlining the steps for rebuilding.

Additional information and future updates on the City's recovery efforts will continue to be shared on the dedicated Coastal Fire Webpage located on the City's website. The City continues its fire prevention education for Homeowner Associations through the Homeowner Association educational workshops and dedicated webpage.