



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

January 31, 2025

Fire Update

Just four weeks after the Franklin fire erupted in Malibu, the southland was once again ablaze with multiple wildfires. The Pacific Palisades and Eaton fires moved incredibly fast, with flames and embers being driven by 60mph winds. The fires devastated communities across Los Angeles County and decimated large swaths of the Santa Monica Mountain range.

When the Palisades fire broke out, staff members took shifts monitoring the situation around the clock so that we could make the call to evacuate in a timely manner. At 1:30am on the morning of January 8th five staff members rallied together to carry out the evacuation procedures, which included crating patients for travel (one of them being a sea lion pup), removing CWC vehicles off-site, and gathering all the supplies and equipment needed to care for our patients. Thanks to their dedication, we were able to swiftly and safely evacuate our facility. Although we continued caring for the majority of the animals at an off-site location, we are so grateful to Ojai Raptor Center, Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network, and Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles who took in our patients that required more extensive room and medical support.

On January 17th the mandatory evacuation orders for our area were lifted, and by the morning of the 18th we were fully open for intakes. The flames from the 23,448-acre Palisades fire came within 700 feet of the small mountain neighborhood of Monte Nido, where CWC resides, and about one mile from our facility. We are so thankful to our community who have been checking in, sharing thoughts of concern, and donating. We would also like to thank the firefighters who have been working tirelessly all over our region, and without whom CWC might not still be standing. To show our gratitude, we will be hosting a lunch at our facility for our heroes at Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 67.

These have been extremely difficult times for our community, which includes all of the people and wild neighbors who call this place home. We are incredibly fortunate that we only sustained moderate damage to some of our enclosures from the windstorms, and the loss of refrigerated/frozen medications and food items due to the lack of electricity.



Evacuating CWC January 8th, 2025.



Allen's Hummingbird evacuated and later released.