



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DATE: November 20, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
RE: Review recommended actions by the ad hoc committee of Watt/Artis to reduce fuel vegetation in Tilden Park and add a cul-de-sac at Lake Drive
PRESENTED BY: Director Watt
SUBMITTED BY: Mary Morris-Mayorga, General Manager

Recommended Action

Consider the item as requested by Director Watt.

Background

At the October 1, 2024, Special Board of Directors Meeting, President Levine established an ad hoc committee consisting of Jim Watt and Rick Artis with the charge of assessing the feasibility of options for fuel reduction and capital infrastructure improvement for the District that meets the mission. This would be a feasibility study that would involve discussing with various stakeholders and bringing back to the board a plan for feasible options that can be pursued going forward with a monthly report to be brought back at least by November.

Report from Director Watt

The Mission Statement in the Board's Policy manual (copy attached) states that the Board is to protect the Kensington community against natural disasters. These disasters certainly include the threat of a wildfire originating in Tilden Park and driven by Diablo winds. Also of concern are the narrow Kensington streets, making emergency vehicle and residential access difficult, to include the lack of a turn-around opportunity at the end of Lake Drive.

This proposal requests that the Board set aside sufficient capital to start the process of minimizing these concerns. At the current time East Bay Regional Parks (EBRP) has not approved additional vegetation clearance along Kensington/EBRP interface other than the annual use of goats which is limited to about 50 feet of clearance. More needs to be done, and the Board has already established an ad hoc committee of Watt and Artis to oversee this issue. However, without a Board commitment to use surplus cash it is unlikely that EBRP will do anything for some time, and only if pressure is employed.

The purpose of a cul-de-sac at the end of Lake Drive would be to provide residents with the opportunity to turn around safely and quickly and to provide a location where first responders could locate vehicles and not block traffic, and to more easily gain access to Tilden Park. It is proposed that \$150,000 be allocated for Tilden Park vegetation reduction and that \$100,000 be set aside for studies to provide a Lake drive cul-de-sac.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact from this item would be an operating budget amendment in the amount of \$250,000, categorized as contract services (studies, cooperative project(s) with EBRP).

Attachments: *Policy 0000 Mission Statement*
Ad Hoc Committee Charter

KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide the highest level of service to Kensington in order to protect the lives, property, and environment of the community from the disastrous effects of fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and other hazardous conditions.



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DATE: October 16, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
RE: Charter for Ad Hoc Committee
SUBMITTED BY: Jim Watt, Director
STAFF REPORT BY: Mary Morris-Mayorga, General Manager

Recommended Action

This item is provided by Director Watt for discussion and approval.

Background

At the October 1, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting, President Levine established an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Jim Watt and Rick Artis with the charge of assessing the feasibility of options for fuel reduction and capital infrastructure improvement for the District that meets the mission. This would be a feasibility study that would involve discussing with various stakeholders and bringing back to the board a plan for feasible options that can be pursued going forward with a monthly report to be brought back at least by November.

Director Watt provided the charter below:

The Board hereby establishes an ad hoc committee consisting of Jim Watt and Rick Artis to obtain estimates for property surveys of the Kensington/East Bay Regional Park interface and the area at the end of Lake Drive for a possible cul-de-sac. These estimates shall be presented to the Board for final approval. The ad hoc committee shall also research possible existing agreements with EBRP and commence discussions for possible brush removal along the school trail.

Fiscal Impact

There is no initial fiscal impact from this item.