Questions on Emergency Public Address Systems from EPC members

We got responses from Dave, Paul, and Lisa. There are two kinds of questions we need to consider. One is questions that the public might ask. The other is questions that the people who are running the system have to be asked. See what you think. We have already discussed most of them in one form or another. Please read the draft survey information and questionnaire to

I'm setting them out as "C" = citizens' questions and "P" = public safety officials' questions.

PAUL'S QUESTIONS

The following questions about the proposal to implement an EWS in Kensington are not unique or new. I think the items and questions Katie and others (Chief Pigoni, Kevin, Dave; also see EPC meeting minutes) addressed in the past cover just about everything that comes to mind. In addition, Dave sent me a 2019 safety commission report to the Berkeley City Council on their proposal for an EWS that seems to address the most critical questions. I have complete faith in Katie's (who has essentially done this before) and Dave's ability to ask the right questions and get the right information to allow us to move toward a decision on an EWS for Kensington Nevertheless, here's my somewhat routine list of queries (not prioritized):

[C] Exactly what can we expect an appropriately selected EWS to do for Kensington in an imminent emergency?

[P] Given all the emergency possibilities, how and when will it be used (Voice? Coded tones? Both?)

[P] What is the best power source to use for this?

[P] How can the system be best protected from adverse weather and wildfires?

[P, C] Once the best system and equipment required for Kensington has been determined, what is the estimated final cost?

[P] What is the recommended routine maintenance protocol and what will it cost?

[P, C] What is the likelihood that people indoors will be alerted when the recommended system is in place?

[P] Will or can our system somehow be integrated with other nearby EWSs (e.g. Berkeley)?

How to avoid confusion internally and externally with different jurisdictions? JPA-like agreements?

[P] Who typically has EWS activation authority and access? What is the typical protocol for activation?

[P] History of recent EWS activations (e.g. for wildfire) and how well it did it work in these other areas (preferably with a similar geography)?

[P, C] If approved, how long would it take to build and implement a ready-to-use system?

Paul

DAVE'S QUESTIONS

[P] 1. Under what emergency situations would an EWS be used? i.e., Wildfire, Earthquake, Red Flag Alert Days, Severe Diablo Wind Events, PG&E Power Shutdown

[P] 2. How would an EWS be used and would the use depend on the emergency? i.e,, siren alone to alert residents to prepare for evacuation; siren to alert residents to listen for follow-up verbal instructions; Siren with Digital Messaging

[P] 3. What are the minimum number of devices needed to cover Kensington?

[P] 4. Cost per device assuming that solar powered batteries would be included.

[P] 5. Where would they be placed? Assume that they would be on public property

[P, C] 6. What is the experience of other jurisdictions who use similar devices or who plan to use them. City of Mill Valley/Southern Marin Fire District; City of Laguna Beach; Berkeley

[P] 7. How would coordination with Berkeley work as Berkeley's proposed system will probably result in coverage of a portion of Kensington.

I am sure that there are other issues but those are the ones that initially come to mind.

Dave

LISA'S QUESTIONS

My questions regarding EWS are:

[P] 1. When would the EMS be used? — Need a clear statement on the purpose of the system.

[P] 2. What types of messages would it be used for?

[P] 3. How does it integrate with ZoneHaven, the County and our Police and Fire depts.

[P] 4. Who's responsible for its operation and maintenance? What is that cost?

[P] 5. Who controls the text of the messages? What is the approval process for alerts?

[P] 6. Does it conflict with EMS broadcasts from Berkeley which are audible in Kensington? Can we coordinate?

I believe David Spath already mentioned most of these issues previously but thought I'd repeat here for the record.

L