

**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
AGENDA OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Date of Meeting: May 10, 2017
Time of Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Place of Meeting: Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

Please Note: Copies of the agenda bills and other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on the agenda are on file in the office of the Kensington Fire Protection District Administration Office, 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, and are available for public inspection. A copy of the Board of Directors packet can be viewed on the internet at www.kensingtonfire.org/agenda/index.shtml.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Manager, 510/527-8395. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Kensington Fire Protection District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title 1).

7:00 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

Directors: Joe de Ville, Don Dommer, Nina Harmon, Janice Kosel, and Laurence Nagel

1. **ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS.** Items 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

All matters listed with the notation "CC" are consent items, which are considered to be routine by the Board of Directors and will be enacted by one motion. The Board of Directors has received and considered reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent item designations to the various items. Copies of the reports are on file in the Fire Protection District Administrative Office at 217 Arlington Avenue and are available to the public. The disposition of the item is indicated. There will be no separate discussion of consent items. If discussion is requested for an item, that item will be removed from the list of consent items and considered separately on the agenda. PLEASE NOTE: Public review copy of the agenda packet is available at the Directors' table at the Board meetings.

2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS.** (This place on the agenda is reserved for comments and inquiries from citizens and Board members concerning matters that do not otherwise appear on the agenda. Speakers shall be requested to provide their names and addresses prior to giving public comments or making inquiries.)

CC 3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.** Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2017 (APPROVE)

CC 4. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY A/P VOUCHER - TRANSMITTAL #11** (APPROVE)

CC 5. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT.** March/April 2017 (APPROVE)

CC 6. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT.** March 2017 (APPROVE)

CC 7. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT.** April 2017 (APPROVE)

8. **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

- a. Review of operations.
- b. Regional issues and developments.

9. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

NEW BUSINESS

10. Resolution 17-01 Authorizing the Adoption of the 2017 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (ACTION)

11. **BOARD REPORTS**

Informational reports from Board members or staff covering the following assignments:

- a. Finance Committee (Kosel/Dommer): Next meeting will be held on 6/6/17 at 5:30 p.m., Public Safety Building Conference Room
- b. Public Safety Building (Dommer/Harmon): Public Presentation to be scheduled
- c. Education (Kosel): Spring Fire Plug
- d. Lease (Kosel): Update on lease negotiation status
- e. Contra Costa County/California Special Districts Assoc. (Nagel): Report on April 2017 meeting; County CSDA newsletter
- f. Diablo Fire Safe Council/Interface (Staff/Nagel):
- g. Correspondence: Letters from Durham, Thiele, Elsbury, Wood and Padian regarding possible park site; thank you from the Combs family; thank you from Sabine and Zoya

ADJOURNMENT. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707.

The deadline for agenda items to be included in the Board packet for the next regular meeting of 6/14/17 is Wednesday, 5/31/17 by 1:00 p.m. The deadline for agenda-related materials to be included in the Board packet is Wednesday, 5/7/17 by 1:00 p.m., Fire Protection District Administration Office, 217 Arlington Ave., Kensington.

IF YOU CHALLENGE A DECISION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN COURT, YOU MAY BE LIMITED TO RAISING ONLY THOSE ISSUES YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE RAISED AT THE BOARD MEETING OR IN WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DELIVERED AT, OR PRIOR TO, THE BOARD MEETING

CONSENT CALENDAR

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2017 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

PRESENT: Directors: Don Dommer, Nina Harmon, Janice Kosel and Larry Nagel
 Staff: Fire Chief Lance Maples, Manager Brenda Navellier
 Absent: Director Joe de Ville

CALL TO ORDER:

President Don Dommer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted that all Directors were present except Director de Ville who was excused.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS:

President Dommer called for the approval of the consent calendar (items 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7), consisting of approval of the February 8, 2017 minutes, approval of the monthly transmittal #9, approval of the January/February 2017 financial reports, approval of the January 2017 incident activity report and approval of the February 2017 incident activity report. Director Nagel made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar items as submitted. Director Harmon seconded the motion.

AYES: Dommer, Harmon, Kosel, Nagel
NOES: None
ABSENT: de Ville

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Maples reported on his write-up of the Fire Prevention Division's activities during 2016. The Division completed over 500 engine-based inspections of businesses with a 97% completion rate. Inspections that do not clear are given to the Fire Prevention Officer to handle one-on-one. There were 82 plan reviews and 142 construction site inspections. Public education program ranges from CPR/First Aid, open houses, the fire safety trailer and car seat installations. The department installed 48 installations of child car seats for Kensington and El Cerrito residents last year. The number is starting to decline slightly as the public becomes educated. Less and less agencies are participating because of the stringent certification process. In the weed abatement program, 360 properties were in violation in El Cerrito and 69 properties were in violation in Kensington. All but two in El Cerrito and one in Kensington cleared voluntarily. Assistant Chief John Swanson who retired from EBRPD 1-1/2 years ago has been hired back as interim Chief. Swanson is a good fit for Kensington and he understands the relationship between the community, fuel reduction and fuel management, and EBRPD. Maples said El Cerrito is very close to finalizing the dispatch services agreement with Con Fire. It has been before legal counsel and the El Cerrito City Council. The transition would take place on 7/1/17. Eileen Nottoli asked about the current dispatch service? Maples responded it is jointly Richmond Fire and Con Fire on a parallel system. Further clarification followed. Karl Kruger asked about records management? Maples explained that El Cerrito Fire houses its own records and servers, and will continue to do that after the transition. Anthony Knight asked if police and fire dispatch are on the same frequency? Maples explained that they are not on the same frequency but part of the same TOT group. It is possible for police and fire dispatch to be housed in two different places. Knight asked about the Monterey pine removal on upper Purdue. Maples said it is not driven by the fire department, it may be DFSC grant work or work just being done by a resident. Knight asked about bark beetle issues in the area. Maples said the predominant issue is sudden Oak death syndrome. Director Nagel asked if ECFD/KFPD is switching dispatchers? The PSAP or Public Safety Answering Point will be changed from the City of Richmond. There is supposedly an AT&T backlog of 4 months. The PSAP needs to change by 7/1/17.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Dommer reminded everyone to finish the Ethics Course through CSDA by 3/15/17. President Dommer noted that the lease with KPPCSD expires on 6/30/17 and appointed Director Kosel to negotiate a new lease. Kosel agreed and will contact the KPPCSD President.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dommer said the Building Committee has expanded the scope and detail of what was originally agreed upon hence the two requests for additional services regarding the building project. Accepting these additional services would put the District over budget on this line item by about \$60,000. Dommer explained that the architects have already completed a program and diagrammatics and the Committee has asked for more detail to show at a public presentation. KFPD has also added a bit of scope regarding the structural engineering at the existing site. Architectural fees for construction documents would be on top of this programming phase and typically runs about 10% of construction. The current request for additional services includes some pre-schematic work. Kosel asked if the Committee is happy with RDC's work to which Dommer answered in the affirmative. Maples explained that RDC had completed their product for the first contract but some of it would have been over budget for what the District can afford. Those ideas drop out and the program has been cut back and more detail will be shown for the public presentation. We have three options of which the District will seek public comment on. There is no easy solution.

Karl Kruger thought the structural engineering should be broken down instead of presented as a lump sum. He also is surprised that RDC charges \$70 an hour for clerical. The Board did not find that amount unusual.

Dommer explained that the structural engineer will do enough work to develop a cost estimate for structural improvements to the existing building only.

Jim Watt asked Dommer for his experience on fire station s.f. costs. Dommer responded that currently they are \$600 to \$700 s.f. for building and site work. Dommer said site work on a flat site is normally about 25% of those costs. Because we are working with sloped sites, the s.f. costs will be on the high end. Watt said he is involved in a supermarket construction project in Dublin that is \$145 s.f. for construction, with soft costs it's \$175 s.f. and with the FF&E it's \$225 s.f. Watt thinks \$600 s.f. is astronomical and \$10 million total cost is mind boggling. Dommer explained that about 75% of that is construction, 25% is soft costs plus a contingency. This is a public project that would require prevailing wage for all disciplines. Dommer said that is what the current market rate is. Maples reported that other agencies in Contra Costa County are currently paying from \$550 to \$800 s.f. for construction costs only. Nagel added that this building is being built to essential services standards unlike a supermarket. Watt said the current building is 5,800 s.f. He is concerned the new building may be overboard and has to be paid for by Kensington taxpayers. Dommer explained that the building program is for 12,000 s.f. (reduced from 15,000) and 4,000 of that is for the police department. Watt said the problem is the increased square footage. Kensington has been able to get by with 5,800 s.f. for many years. He recognizes that it would be better for staff to have the extra space but costs have to be taken into consideration. Dommer said the existing building does not meet the police requirements of separation and security or ADA requirements. Current maintenance costs have been running an average of \$100,000 a year. Watt doesn't see the justification for doubling the size of the building. A new building would be shared in cost by KFPD and KPPCSD. Watt asked if the City of El Cerrito will be contributing? Dommer said no, El Cerrito provides the service and KFPD provides the building. Maples said a public presentation will be made showing what the District currently has, what the building code requirements are, what professional standards are and the community will decide. Dommer said the industry standard for a single engine company is 7,000 to 10,000 s.f. just for the fire department. Dommer gave more statistics on modern stations and does not believe what is proposed is overprogramming. Watt noted that Option 1 is for seismic retrofit only but if we can't turn it into an essential services building why are we considering Option 1? Dommer said that if everything falls apart, that may be all the District can proceed with. We don't know if we can meet essential services unless we complete the study. Watt said Option 1 is only viable if it can meet essential services. Dommer said that Option is probably \$15,000 total including the \$6,000 for the structural. Kosel said it's hard to believe that Option 1 is the direction that Board would choose. Structurally the building would be better but functionally still obsolete. Kosel asked if Option 1 should be jettisoned? Maples said there will be a lot of public debate and all three options should be presented for those who just want a cheap patch job and all operations stay the same.

Linda Spath asked if the District starts work on the building, doesn't it have to be made ADA compliant? Yes, at a certain cost level. Spath also asked if whether a fire station has to be constructed to essential services standards? Maples responded that a new building would have to be but not a retrofitted one. Dommer explained that if you spend half the value of the building, everything including electrical, mechanical, plumbing, fire sprinklers, etc. would all have to be brought up to current code.

Dommer explained that Option 2 would be razing the building and reconstructing. Dommer thinks that Option 2 will be more expensive per s.f. than Option 3 at the new site. The existing building would have to be demolished and abated on a very tight, constricted site, the roadway would get torn up with all the trucks, etc.

David Spath asked what the consequences of not having an essential services building be? Dommer said renovating would not bring it to code. With essential services, you are trying to provide a building that is usable after an earthquake. Director Harmon noted that the building function is also obsolete. Spath said he is already convinced Option 1 is not a good idea.

Director Nagel said the District is supposed to provide fire services but also emergency response and preparedness services. Being housed in a building that is not going to be serviceable after an earthquake is a big whole in the community's emergency plan.

Chief Maples said this has been a good conversation with informed people who are active in the community. When the public presentation is made, there will be other folks that aren't as informed. Anthony Knight agreed that people will attend that aren't informed and the Board should go ahead and present Option 1.

Linda Spath suggested the presentation start with the question of "can the existing building be brought to essential services standards". Chief Maples agreed with Knight that other folks will need to be walked through the three Options. If the decision was being made tonight, Option 1 would probably not be considered.

Jim Watt agreed that Option 1 doesn't make sense. His concern is that Option 2 needs to be scaled back. He is reading from previous minutes that it is impossible to fit everything on the existing site. The building is too big. Dommer said both agencies will not fit into a 7,000 or 8,000 s.f. building. Watt said the Chiefs should be asked what they can get by with.

A resident said that \$10 million will be such a tough sell to the residents. The community can't afford it. Kosel said the District is not considering bond indebtedness. The resident said the District will need to explain Option 1, Option 2, and why we need a 12,000 s.f. building in the park. Dommer said the public meeting is estimated to take place in June or July.

Linda Spath said there is a lot of work and cost involved if the District tears down the existing building and to selling it as is. Dommer agreed it makes sense to have a place for both Districts while a new building is being built. Spath thinks there is real value to having fire and police together in an essential services building.

Mack5 – Request for Additional Services for project management and cost estimating in the amount of \$19,380: Director Kosel made a motion to approve the request for additional services in the amount not to exceed \$19,380. Director Nagel seconded the motion.

AYES: Dommer, Harmon, Kosel, Nagel
NOES: None
ABSENT: de Ville

RossDrulisCusenbery – Request for Additional Services for KFPD master plan/pre-schematic design services in the amount of \$62,185: Director Kosel made a motion to approve the request for additional services in the amount not to exceed \$62,185. Director Nagel seconded the motion.

AYES: Dommer, Harmon, Kosel, Nagel
NOES: None
ABSENT: de Ville

BOARD REPORTS:

Public Safety Building: Dommer noted that KFPD has requested a letter and the KPPCSD said they would send addressing the fact that they acknowledge KFPD is developing a possible building scheme for the park site.

CSDA: Director Nagel will attend the next meeting in April.

DFSC: Director Nagel said their next meeting is one week from tomorrow. The stakeholders meeting for the community wildfire plan is on 3/29/17.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Brenda J. Navellier

These minutes were approved at the regular Board meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on May 10, 2017.

Attest:

Larry Nagel, Board Secretary

TRANSMITTAL - APPROVAL

TO: Auditor Controller of Contra Costa County:

Forwarded herewith are the following invoices and claims for goods and services received which have been approved for payment:

KENSINGTON FPD										PY/CY:
TRANSMITTAL - APPROVAL										BATCH #:
Invoices										DATE:
										LOCATION #:
										FILENAME:
VENDOR	VENDOR NAME	INVOICE DATE	DESCRIPTION	FUND ORG	SUB-ACCT	AGENCY WORK UNIT	EXG/MB	PG	PAYMENT AMOUNT	
50096	Diablo Fire Safe Council	5/1/2017	2017 membership dues	7840	2490				500.00	
50131	Meyers Nave	4/17/2017	2017030392 legal counsel	7840	2490				1,447.20	
50146	Delta Dental	5/1/2017	BE002180467 May dental	7840	1061				1,008.86	
50148	CalPERS	04/14/17	7072901257 Jun medical	7840	1061				4,309.55	
50147	KFPD Revolving Fund	05/05/17	Reimburse revolving fund	7840	2490				15,389.01	
50150	Vision Service Plan	04/20/17	001027770001 May vision	7840	1061				315.20	
50151	City of El Cerrito	05/01/17	May fire protection	7840	2328				208,317.09	
50178	Your Safety Place	05/01/17	151408 24-hour kits	7840	2490				3,186.28	
50179	Mailstream	03/31/17	521378 spring newsletter	7840	2490				1,374.46	
50180	Mack5	04/30/17	3486 Apr proj mgmt	7840	2490				3,876.00	
50201	Ross Drulis Cusenbery	04/30/17	2016029-9 arch fees Apr 2017	7840	2490				21,728.75	
TOTAL										261,452.40

Kensington FPD Approval

Date: *[Signature]* Date: 5/15/17

5/5/17

Attachment to Transmittal 0517

Kensington Fire Protection District Revolving Fund 01406

Detailed invoice for reimbursement to the Revolving Fund for payment of the following expenditures:

INVOICE		
DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
3/27/2017	Contra Costa Elections	300.00
3/29/2017	Pagepoint - website updates	22.50
4/1/2017	All-Ways - janitorial	105.00
4/5/2017	ICMA/RC - deferred comp	1,366.38
4/3/2017	Red Cloud - antenna	407.32
4/17/2017	Payroll processing	60.09
4/17/2017	Payroll - 4/1-4/15/17	2,439.46
4/17/2017	Withholding payroll taxes 4/1-4/15/17	1,235.86
4/4/2017	Galvin - dryer repair x 2	407.51
4/13/2017	Pagepoint - website updates	22.50
4/9/2017	Sprint - telephone	65.63
4/5/2017	AT&T - telephone	363.33
3/7/2017	Terminix - pest control	123.00
4/4/2017	Olivero Plumbing - repair two upstairs toilets	210.88
4/5/2017	PG&E - electric	811.43
4/5/2017	PG&E - gas	212.87
4/4/2017	EBMUD -water/wastewater	568.28
4/12/2017	Mechanics Bank - newsletter postage, bbq parts	600.32
5/1/2017	Stericycle - medical waste	394.68
4/22/2017	Comcast - internet	141.08
4/24/2017	de Ville - reimburse harassment training	55.00
4/19/2017	Schwartzburd - reimburse CERT shed shelves	116.01
5/2/2017	ICMA/RC - deferred comp	1,366.38
5/2/2017	Payroll processing	60.09
5/2/2017	Payroll - 4/15/17-4/30/17	2,596.80
5/2/2017	Withholding payroll taxes 4/15-4/30/17	1,336.61
	Total	15,389.01

Please complete the enclosed deposit ticket and mail in the attached envelope to The Mechanics Bank.

Kensington Fire Protection District
Balance Sheet
As of April 12, 2017

	Apr 12, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Petty Cash	200.00
KFPD Revolving Acct - Gen Fund	7,308.95
General Fund	320,982.99
Special Tax Fund	13,485.93
Capital Fund	6,950.77
Total Checking/Savings	348,928.64
Accounts Receivable	
Due from County for Reimb.	14,772.60
Interest Receivable	776.91
Advance on Taxes	1,819,601.24
Advance on Supplemental Taxes	57,209.33
Total Accounts Receivable	1,892,360.08
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Services - EC	821,556.34
Prepaid Exp.	8,255.22
Prepaid CERBT - Retiree Trust	953,611.55
Investments	
Capital Replacement Funds	2,193,425.00
Fire Protect. Contract Reserves	2,552,869.07
Investments - Other	-207,803.97
Total Investments	4,538,490.10
Total Other Current Assets	6,321,913.21
Total Current Assets	8,563,201.93
Fixed Assets	
Land	5,800.00
Equipment	1,418,099.35
Accumulated Depreciation-Equip	-553,715.15
Building and Improvements	2,391,581.26
Accumulated Depreciation - Bldg	-858,754.00
Total Fixed Assets	2,403,011.46
TOTAL ASSETS	10,966,213.39
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Due to Revolving Acct - Gen Fnd	14,772.60
Due to Other - Issued by CCC	35,859.22
Total Accounts Payable	50,631.82
Other Current Liabilities	
El Cerrito Service Contract Pay	821,556.27
Wages & PR Taxes Payable	2,497.08
Total Other Current Liabilities	824,053.35
Total Current Liabilities	874,685.17
Total Liabilities	874,685.17
Equity	
Fund Equity - General	3,325,448.26
Fund Equity - Capital Projects	548,373.00
Fund Equity - Special Revenue	17,789.00
Fund Equity - Gen Fixed Asset	1,321,009.00
Fund Equity	3,271,383.99

Kensington Fire Protection District
Balance Sheet
As of April 12, 2017

	Apr 12, 17
Net Income	1,607,524.97
Total Equity	10,091,528.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	10,966,213.39

Kensington Fire Protection District
Revenue & Expense Prev Year Comparison
 July 1, 2016 through April 12, 2017

	Jul 1, '16 - Apr 12, 17	Jul 1, '15 - Apr 12, 16	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Property Taxes	3,631,706.87	3,393,096.84	238,610.03	7.0%
Special Taxes	200,287.30	200,345.40	-58.10	0.0%
Other Tax Income	12,986.98	13,132.72	-145.78	-1.1%
Lease Agreement	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.0%
Interest Income	27,054.52	3,028.31	24,026.21	793.4%
Salary Reimbursement Agreement	39,798.00	37,758.15	2,039.85	5.4%
Miscellaneous Income	1,368.24	2,231.51	-863.27	-37.8%
Total Income	3,913,222.89	3,649,593.93	263,628.96	7.2%
Expense				
OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES				
LAFCO Fees	2,123.97	1,801.11	322.86	17.9%
Contra Costa County Expenses	31,446.00	31,287.66	158.34	0.5%
El Cerrito Contract Fee	1,914,651.80	1,777,147.58	137,504.22	7.7%
Water System Improvements	0.00	220,000.00	-220,000.00	-100.0%
Fire Abatement Contract	285.00	500.00	-215.00	-47.0%
Risk Management Insurance	12,943.00	11,491.00	1,452.00	12.6%
Professional Fees				
Accounting	2,424.54	3,062.07	-637.53	-20.8%
Actuarial Valuation	0.00	3,400.00	-3,400.00	-100.0%
Audit	13,000.00	13,000.00	0.00	0.0%
Legal Fees	25,692.12	2,718.36	22,973.76	845.1%
Total Professional Fees	41,116.66	22,180.43	18,936.23	85.4%
Wildland Vegetation Mgmt	0.00	630.00	-630.00	-100.0%
Total OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	2,002,546.43	2,065,037.78	-62,491.35	-3.0%
RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS				
PERS Medical	31,029.13	18,007.64	13,021.49	72.3%
Delta Dental	4,809.70	2,129.10	2,680.60	125.9%
Vision Care	1,478.90	579.10	899.80	155.4%
Total RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS	37,317.73	20,715.84	16,601.89	80.1%
COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES				
Public Education	4,343.82	6,885.79	-2,541.97	-36.9%
Comm. Pharmaceutical Drop-Off	1,008.88	71.90	936.98	1,303.2%
CERT Emerg Kits/Sheds/Prepared	12,703.34	1,028.20	11,675.14	1,135.5%
Open Houses	335.83	1,127.07	-791.24	-70.2%
Community Shredder	1,162.05	1,623.40	-461.35	-28.4%
DFSC Matching Grants	8,000.00	4,225.00	3,775.00	89.4%
Community Sandbags	3,102.90	4,037.64	-934.74	-23.2%
Total COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES	30,656.82	18,999.00	11,657.82	61.4%
DISTRICT ACTIVITIES				
Firefighter's Apparel & PPE	22,609.84	804.44	22,005.40	3,640.8%
Firefighters' Expenses	598.75	9,038.21	-8,439.46	-93.4%
Staff Appreciation	1,135.86	1,264.27	-128.41	-10.2%
Professional Development	2,499.41	3,937.57	-1,438.16	-36.5%
Building Maintenance				
Needs Assess/Feasibility Study	119,439.97	5,000.00	114,439.97	2,288.8%
Storage Room Emergency Repair	0.00	33,528.89	-33,528.89	-100.0%
Janitorial Service	1,050.00	1,050.00	0.00	0.0%
Medical Waste Disposal	2,888.67	2,198.91	689.76	31.4%
Building alarm	1,379.44	1,444.44	-65.00	-4.5%
Gardening service	480.00	530.00	-50.00	-9.4%
Miscellaneous Maint.	7,300.63	7,528.91	-228.28	-3.0%
Total Building Maintenance	132,538.71	51,279.15	81,259.56	158.5%
Building Utilities/Service				
Garbage	0.00	346.40	-346.40	-100.0%
Gas and Electric	7,026.97	5,596.79	1,430.18	25.6%
Water/Sewer	1,730.91	1,291.58	439.33	34.0%
Total Building Utilities/Service	8,757.88	7,234.77	1,523.11	21.1%
Election	300.00	0.00	300.00	100.0%
Memberships	6,876.00	6,309.00	367.00	5.8%
Office				
Office Expense	748.13	2,823.23	-2,075.10	-73.5%
Office Supplies	1,041.01	1,281.63	-240.62	-18.8%
Telephone	5,219.55	5,603.03	-383.48	-6.8%
Total Office	7,008.69	9,707.89	-2,699.20	-27.8%
Total DISTRICT ACTIVITIES	182,125.14	89,375.30	92,749.84	103.8%
Staff				
Wages	62,334.90	58,584.98	3,749.94	6.4%
Longevity Pay	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.0%
Overtime Wages	419.54	704.12	-284.58	-40.4%
Medical/dental ins compensation	6,142.50	5,850.00	292.50	5.0%
Retirement Contribution	4,737.42	4,452.48	284.94	6.4%
Payroll Taxes	5,641.13	5,353.67	287.46	5.4%
Workers Compensation/Life Ins	1,622.79	1,453.77	169.02	11.6%
Payroll Processing	1,153.52	1,102.04	51.48	4.7%
Total Staff	83,051.80	78,501.04	4,550.76	5.8%
Total Expense	2,335,697.92	2,272,628.96	63,068.98	2.8%
Net Ordinary Income	1,577,524.97	1,376,964.97	200,560.00	14.5%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Transfers In - Capital	1,000,000.00	70,000.00	930,000.00	1,328.6%
Transfers In - General	261,724.82	354,525.48	-92,800.66	-26.2%
Total Other Income	1,261,724.82	424,525.48	837,199.34	197.2%
Other Expense				
Transfers Out - Capital	371,724.82	229,525.48	142,199.34	62.0%
Transfers Out - Special	-110,000.00	125,000.00	-235,000.00	-188.0%
Transfers Out - General	1,000,000.00	70,000.00	930,000.00	1,328.6%
<Gain>/Loss on Asset Disposal	-30,000.00	630.87	-30,830.87	-4,855.3%

**Kensington Fire Protection District
Revenue & Expense Prev Year Comparison
July 1, 2016 through April 12, 2017**

	Jul 1, '16 - Apr 12, 17	Jul 1, '16 - Apr 12, 16	\$ Change	% Change
Total Other Expense	1,231,724.82	425,156.35	806,568.47	189.7%
Net Other Income	30,000.00	-630.87	30,630.87	4,855.3%
Net Income	1,607,524.97	1,376,334.10	231,190.87	16.8%

**Kensington Fire Protection District
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2016 through March 2017**

	Jul '16 - Mar 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Property Taxes	3,631,706.87	3,520,295.00	111,411.87	103.2%
Special Taxes	200,287.39	200,287.00	0.30	100.0%
Other Tax Income	12,966.96	13,000.00	-13.04	99.9%
Lease Agreement	1.00	1.00	0.00	100.0%
Interest Income	25,492.02	10,000.00	15,492.02	254.9%
Salary Reimbursement Agreement	39,798.00	40,950.00	-1,152.00	97.2%
Miscellaneous income	1,366.24	0.00	1,366.24	100.0%
Total Income	3,911,660.39	3,784,533.00	127,127.39	103.4%
Expense				
OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES				
LAFCO Fees	2,123.97	1,850.00	273.97	114.8%
Contra Costa County Expenses	31,446.00	33,340.00	-1,894.00	94.3%
EI Cerrito Contract Fee	1,914,651.80	1,914,651.72	0.08	100.0%
Water System Improvements	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
Fire Abatement Contract	265.00	8,000.00	-7,735.00	3.3%
Risk Management Insurance	12,943.00	12,110.00	833.00	106.9%
Professional Fees				
Accounting	2,424.54	3,750.03	-1,325.49	64.7%
Actuarial Valuation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Audit	13,000.00	13,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Legal Fees	25,692.12	22,500.00	3,192.12	114.2%
Total Professional Fees	41,116.66	39,250.03	1,866.63	104.8%
Wildland Vegetation Mgmt	0.00	6,250.00	-6,250.00	0.0%
Total OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	2,002,546.43	2,025,451.75	-22,905.32	98.9%
RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS				
PERS Medical	31,029.13	27,637.51	3,391.62	112.3%
Delta Dental	4,328.73	4,327.51	1.22	100.0%
Vision Care	1,478.90	1,331.24	147.66	111.1%
Total RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS	36,836.76	33,296.26	3,540.50	110.6%
COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES				
Public Education	4,321.32	9,750.01	-5,428.69	44.3%
Comm. Pharmaceutical Drop-Off	1,008.88	2,500.00	-1,491.12	40.4%
Vial of Life Program	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
CERT Emerg Kits/Sheds/Prepared	12,703.34	22,133.34	-9,430.00	57.4%
Open Houses	335.83	750.00	-414.17	44.3%
Community Shredder	1,162.05	1,750.00	-587.95	66.4%
DFSC Matching Grants	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Firesafe Planing Grants	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
Demonstration Garden	0.00	4,699.99	-4,999.99	0.0%
Community Sandbags	3,102.90	6,000.00	-2,897.10	51.7%
Total COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES	30,634.32	57,983.34	-27,349.02	52.8%
DISTRICT ACTIVITIES				
Firefighter's Apparel & PPE	22,609.84	25,000.00	-2,390.16	90.4%
Firefighter's Expenses	191.43	7,499.97	-7,308.54	2.6%
Staff Appreciation	1,135.86	4,000.00	-2,864.14	28.4%
Professional Development	2,499.41	3,749.99	-1,250.58	66.7%
Building Maintenance				
Needs Assess/Feasibility Study	119,439.97	140,000.00	-20,560.03	85.3%
Storage Room Emergency Repair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Janitorial Service	945.00	1,125.00	-180.00	84.0%
Medical Waste Disposal	2,866.67	2,624.99	263.68	110.0%
Building alarm	1,379.44	1,700.00	-320.56	81.1%
Gardening service	480.00	1,227.24	-747.24	39.1%
Miscellaneous Maint.	7,300.63	9,000.00	-1,699.37	81.1%
Total Building Maintenance	132,433.71	155,677.23	-23,243.52	85.1%
Building Utilities/Service				
Garbage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Gas and Electric	7,026.97	5,625.00	1,401.97	124.9%
Water/Sewer	1,730.91	1,600.00	130.91	108.2%
Total Building Utilities/Service	8,757.88	7,225.00	1,532.88	121.2%
Election	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
Memberships	6,676.00	6,650.00	26.00	100.4%
Office				
Office Expense	748.13	2,625.03	-1,876.90	28.5%
Office Supplies	1,041.01	1,874.97	-833.96	55.5%
Telephone	5,219.55	6,000.03	-780.48	87.0%
Total Office	7,008.69	10,500.03	-3,491.34	66.7%
Total DISTRICT ACTIVITIES	181,312.82	221,302.22	-39,989.40	81.9%
Staff				
Wages	62,334.90	62,334.72	0.18	100.0%
Longevity Pay	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Overtime Wages	419.54	1,012.50	-592.96	41.4%
Vacation Wages	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Medical/dental ins compensation	6,142.50	6,142.50	0.00	100.0%
Retirement Contribution	4,737.42	4,737.42	0.00	100.0%
Payroll Taxes	5,641.13	5,543.00	98.13	101.8%
Workers Compensation/Life Ins	1,622.79	1,600.00	22.79	101.4%
Payroll Processing	1,153.52	1,137.00	16.52	101.5%
Total Staff	83,051.80	83,507.14	-455.34	99.5%
Contingency				
General	0.00	15,625.00	-15,625.00	0.0%
Total Contingency	0.00	15,625.00	-15,625.00	0.0%
Total Expense	2,334,382.13	2,437,165.71	-102,783.58	95.8%
Net Ordinary Income	1,577,278.26	1,347,367.29	229,910.97	117.1%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Transfers In - Capital	1,000,000.00	70,000.00	930,000.00	1,428.6%

**Kensington Fire Protection District
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2016 through March 2017**

	Jul '16 - Mar 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Transfers In - General	261,724.82	0.00	261,724.82	100.0%
Total Other Income	1,261,724.82	70,000.00	1,191,724.82	1,802.5%
Other Expense				
Depreciation Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Transfers Out - Capital	371,724.82	229,525.48	142,199.34	162.0%
Transfers Out - Special	-110,000.00	125,000.00	-235,000.00	-88.0%
Transfers Out - General	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	100.0%
<Gain>/Loss on Asset Disposal	-30,000.00	630.87	-30,630.87	-4,755.3%
Total Other Expense	1,231,724.82	355,156.35	876,568.47	346.8%
Net Other Income	30,000.00	-285,156.35	315,156.35	-10.5%
Net Income	1,607,278.26	1,062,210.94	545,067.32	151.3%



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April 2, 2017

TO: Kensington Fire Protection District Board Members

FROM: Michael Pigoni: Battalion Chief

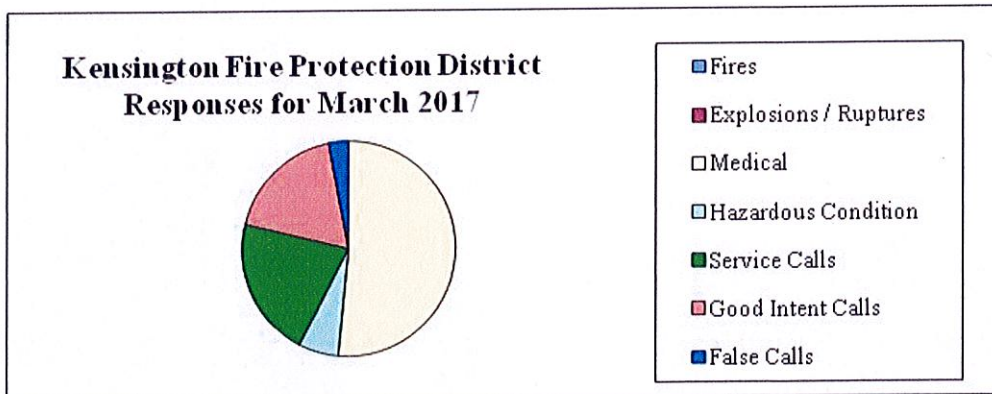
RE: Incident Activity Reports for the Month of March 2017

There were 33 incidents that occurred during the month of March in the community of Kensington. Please see the attached "Incident Log" for the dates and times, locations and incident type for these calls that the Fire Department responded to this past month. Kensington calls are shown in the charts at the bottom of this page. During this month E65 responded to a total of 52 calls in all districts.

Call volume both in the community and surrounding area decreased this month compared to last. Part of this reason was the less severe storms. However, while not storm related, Engine 65 did respond to Anson Way for a water main break in the middle of the street. Unfortunately, one house sustained some moderate flooding damage inside their home and three other residents had their yards damaged by the large volume of water runoff.

The chart below is broken down into NFIRS incident types. The following is a list of the response types, the number of responses for each type, and the percentage of the total calls for each type.

<u>Call Type</u>		<u>Incident Count</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
Fires	<i>(Structure, Trash, Vehicles, Vegetation Fires)</i>	0	0.00%
Explosions / Ruptures	<i>(Over Pressure/Ruptures, Explosions, Bombs)</i>	0	0.00%
Medical	<i>(EMS, Vehicle Accidents, Extrication Rescue)</i>	17	51.52%
Hazardous Condition	<i>(Chemical Spills, Leaks, Down Power Lines)</i>	2	6.06%
Service Calls	<i>(Distress, Water/Smoke/Odor Problems, Public Assists)</i>	7	21.21%
Good Intent Calls	<i>(Cancelled En Route, Wrong Location)</i>	6	18.18%
False Calls	<i>(Wrong Company/Unit Dispatched)</i>	1	3.03%
Totals		33	100.00%



Kensington Fire Protection District Response Log for March 2017

#	Incident Number	Date & Time	Address	City	Apparatus ID	Incident Type*
1	1700635	01-Mar-17 14:36:51	265 GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD	Kensington	E65	321
2	1700636	01-Mar-17 18:18:32	730 WELLESLEY AVE	Kensington	E65	321
3	1700637	01-Mar-17 20:58:43	244 AMHERST AVE	Kensington	E65	651
4	1700644	02-Mar-17 10:38:16	837 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	321
5	1700687	07-Mar-17 16:10:05	6 MARCHANT CT	Kensington	E65	321
6	1700688	07-Mar-17 18:36:53	GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD	Kensington	E65	650
7	1700692	08-Mar-17 09:48:05	265 GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD	Kensington	E65	740
8	1700694	08-Mar-17 19:24:27	380 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	651
9	1700699	09-Mar-17 15:04:00	141 SAINT ALBANS DR	Kensington	E71	554
10	1700708	10-Mar-17 09:45:04	6 MARCHANT CT	Kensington	E65	321
11	1700725	12-Mar-17 10:58:24	OBERLIN AVE	Kensington	E72	611
12	1700732	12-Mar-17 20:25:10	38 HIGHLGATE RD	Kensington	E65	651
13	1700733	13-Mar-17 04:37:28	212 COLGATE AVE	Kensington	E65	321
14	1700742	14-Mar-17 01:59:10	429 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	321
15	1700749	14-Mar-17 20:26:02	57 COWPER AVE	Kensington	E65	550
16	1700750	15-Mar-17 03:22:42	212 COLGATE AVE	Kensington	E65	550
17	1700778	17-Mar-17 01:38:22	280 PURDUE AVE	Kensington	E65	321
18	1700808	20-Mar-17 11:02:32	90 HIGHLAND BLVD	Kensington	E72	321
19	1700826	22-Mar-17 02:49:12	730 WELLESLEY AVE	Kensington	E65	321
20	1700830	22-Mar-17 21:59:21	29 EDGECROFT DR	Kensington	E65	321
21	1700842	24-Mar-17 03:29:34	141 SAINT ALBANS DR	Kensington	E65	321
22	1700844	24-Mar-17 13:35:55	304 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E72	322
23	1700848	24-Mar-17 17:30:04	212 WILLAMETTE AVE	Kensington	E65	321
24	1700864	26-Mar-17 07:15:37	212 COLGATE AVE	Kensington	E65	550
25	1700865	26-Mar-17 09:25:55	24 JESSEN CT	Kensington	E65	412
26	1700866	26-Mar-17 11:32:28	107 ARDMORE DR	Kensington	E65	611X
27	1700873	26-Mar-17 22:49:20	37 KINGSTON DR	Kensington	E65	321
28	1700887	27-Mar-17 15:57:33	ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	400
29	1700888	27-Mar-17 17:33:04	23 ANSON WAY	Kensington	E65	522
30	1700894	28-Mar-17 18:32:37	205 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	321

31	1700902	30-Mar-17 01:45:19	212 COLGATE AVE	Kensington	E65	550
32	1700909	30-Mar-17 18:14:27	22 AVON DR	Kensington	E65	321
33	1700914	31-Mar-17 20:14:17	145 LAWSON DR	Kensington	E65	550

* See Attached Table for Incident Type Explanations

Type Series	Description
100	(Structure, Trash, Vehicle, Vegetation Fire)
200	(Over Pressure/Ruptures Explosions, Bombs)
300	(EMS, Vehicle Accidents, Extrication, Rescue)
400	(Chemical Spills, Leaks, Down power Lines)
500	(Distress, Water/ Smoke/Odor Problems, Public Assists)
600	(Cancelled En Route, Wrong Location)
700	(Wrong Company/Unit Dispatched)

Kensington Fire Protection District

Engine 65 Response Log for March 2017

#	Incident Number	Date & Time	Address	City	Apparatus ID	Incident Type*
1	1700635	01-Mar-17 14:35:08	265 GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD	Kensington	E65	321
2	1700636	01-Mar-17 18:14:30	730 WELLESLEY AVE	Kensington	E65	321
3	1700637	01-Mar-17 20:57:13	244 AMHERST AVE	Kensington	E65	651
4	1700643	02-Mar-17 09:41:46	817 CRAFT AVE	El Cerrito	E65	321
5	1700644	02-Mar-17 10:37:55	837 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	321
6	1700647	02-Mar-17 12:19:39	9889 SAN PABLO AVE	El Cerrito	E65	311
7	1700652	03-Mar-17 01:57:31	924 LENEVE PL	El Cerrito	E65	311
8	1700660	03-Mar-17 16:13:11	1000 EL CERRITO PLZ	El Cerrito	E65	324
9	1700667	04-Mar-17 22:22:28	604 SEAVIEW DR	El Cerrito	E65	321
10	1700670	05-Mar-17 10:50:49	MOESER LN	El Cerrito	E65	444
11	1700679	06-Mar-17 14:46:59	6400 CUTTING BLVD	El Cerrito	E65	321
12	1700687	07-Mar-17 16:07:12	6 MARCHANT CT	Kensington	E65	321
13	1700688	07-Mar-17 18:33:35	GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD	Kensington	E65	650
14	1700692	08-Mar-17 09:46:27	265 GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD	Kensington	E65	740
15	1700694	08-Mar-17 19:23:27	380 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	651
16	1700708	10-Mar-17 09:43:25	6 MARCHANT CT	Kensington	E65	321
17	1700719	11-Mar-17 17:05:22	GRIZZLY PEAK / LOMA CONTADA	Orinda	E65	611M
18	1700723	12-Mar-17 00:24:01	7022 STOCKTON AVE	El Cerrito	E65	311
19	1700724	12-Mar-17 10:44:16	7735 CURRY AVE	El Cerrito	E65	321
20	1700732	12-Mar-17 20:23:13	38 HIGHGATE RD	Kensington	E65	651
21	1700733	13-Mar-17 04:33:09	212 COLGATE AVE	Kensington	E65	321
22	1700742	14-Mar-17 01:58:22	429 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	321
23	1700749	14-Mar-17 20:22:43	57 COWPER AVE	Kensington	E65	550
24	1700750	15-Mar-17 03:19:55	212 COLGATE AVE	Kensington	E65	550
25	1700757	15-Mar-17 18:57:45	7735 CURRY AVE	El Cerrito	E65	700
26	1700765	16-Mar-17 09:37:49	557 RICHMOND ST	El Cerrito	E65	321
27	1700766	16-Mar-17 10:14:56	7550 SCHMIDT LN	El Cerrito	E65	611X
28	1700767	16-Mar-17 11:54:22	11740 SAN PABLO AVE	El Cerrito	E65	700
29	1700778	17-Mar-17 01:36:05	280 PURDUE AVE	Kensington	E65	321
30	1700781	17-Mar-17 02:06:43	700 HANCOCK WAY	El Cerrito	E65	321

31	1700787	17-Mar-17 15:05:10	800 ARLINGTON BLVD	El Cerrito	E65	321
32	1700793	18-Mar-17 13:42:16	6699 FAIRMOUNT AVE	El Cerrito	E65	550
33	1700802	19-Mar-17 19:01:43	1006 RICHMOND ST	El Cerrito	E65	611F
34	1700805	20-Mar-17 08:20:59	540 ASHBURY AVE	El Cerrito	E65	730
35	1700811	20-Mar-17 12:53:43	6510 GLADYS AVE	El Cerrito	E65	321
36	1700815	21-Mar-17 05:40:25	7705 ERROL DR	El Cerrito	E65	321
37	1700826	22-Mar-17 02:46:05	730 WELLESLEY AVE	Kensington	E65	321
38	1700830	22-Mar-17 21:59:02	29 EDGECROFT DR	Kensington	E65	321
39	1700842	24-Mar-17 03:27:33	141 SAINT ALBANS DR	Kensington	E65	321
40	1700848	24-Mar-17 17:27:38	212 WILLAMETTE AVE	Kensington	E65	321
41	1700864	26-Mar-17 07:13:01	212 COLGATE AVE	Kensington	E65	550
42	1700865	26-Mar-17 09:25:29	24 JESSEN CT	Kensington	E65	412
43	1700866	26-Mar-17 11:31:41	107 ARDMORE DR	Kensington	E65	611X
44	1700870	26-Mar-17 17:50:03	504 BALRA DR	El Cerrito	E65	321
45	1700873	26-Mar-17 22:47:04	37 KINGSTON DR	Kensington	E65	321
46	1700887	27-Mar-17 15:55:24	ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	400
47	1700888	27-Mar-17 17:32:45	23 ANSON WAY	Kensington	E65	522
48	1700894	28-Mar-17 18:30:18	205 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	321
49	1700897	29-Mar-17 10:25:36	612 SEAVIEW DR	El Cerrito	E65	321
50	1700902	30-Mar-17 01:44:16	212 COLGATE AVE	Kensington	E65	550
51	1700909	30-Mar-17 18:11:45	22 AVON DR	Kensington	E65	321
52	1700914	31-Mar-17 20:13:52	145 LAWSON DR	Kensington	E65	550

* See Attached Table for Incident Type Explanations

Type Series	Description
100	(Structure, Trash, Vehicle, Vegetation Fire)
200	(Over Pressure/Ruptures Explosions, Bombs)
300	(EMS, Vehicle Accidents, Extrication, Rescue)
400	(Chemical Spills, Leaks, Down power Lines)
500	(Distress, Water/ Smoke/Odor Problems, Public Assists)
600	(Cancelled En Route, Wrong Location)
700	(Wrong Company/Unit Dispatched)



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May 3, 2017

TO: Kensington Fire Protection District Board Members

FROM: Michael Pigoni: Battalion Chief

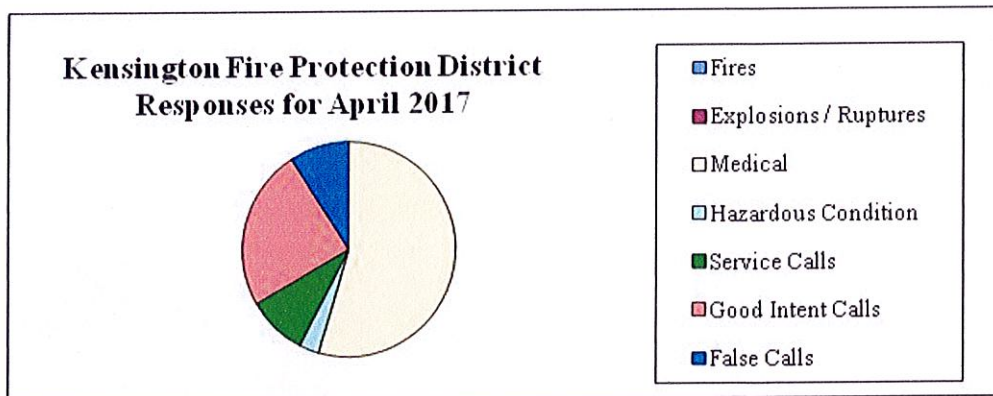
RE: Incident Activity Reports for the Month of April 2017

There were 33 incidents that occurred during the month of April in the community of Kensington. Please see the attached "Incident Log" for the dates and times locations and incident type for these calls that the Fire Department responded to this past month. Kensington calls are shown in the charts at the bottom of this page. During this month E65 responded to a total of 58 calls in all districts.

Call volume both in the community and surrounding area remained almost constant. There were no fire related incidents or property loss.

The chart below is broken down into NFIRS incident types. The following is a list of the response types, the number of responses for each type and the percentage of the total calls for each type.

<u>Call Type</u>		<u>Incident Count</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
Fires	<i>(Structure, Trash, Vehicles, Vegetation Fires)</i>	0	0.00%
Explosions / Ruptures	<i>(Over Pressure/Ruptures, Explosions, Bombs)</i>	0	0.00%
Medical	<i>(EMS, Vehicle Accidents, Extrication Rescue)</i>	18	54.55%
Hazardous Condition	<i>(Chemical Spills, Leaks, Down Power Lines)</i>	1	3.03%
Service Calls	<i>(Distress, Water/Smoke/Odor Problems, Public Assists)</i>	3	9.09%
Good Intent Calls	<i>(Cancelled En Route, Wrong Location)</i>	8	24.24%
False Calls	<i>(Wrong Company/Unit Dispatched)</i>	3	9.09%
Totals		33	100.00%



Kensington Fire Protection District Response Log for April 2017

#	Incident Number	Date & Time	Address	City	Apparatus ID	Incident Type*
1	1700922	01-Apr-17 10:57:29	620 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	611F
2	1700932	02-Apr-17 07:06:00	40 KINGSTON DR	Kensington	E65	522
3	1700943	03-Apr-17 15:33:59	38 SUNSET DR	Kensington	E72	321
4	1700957	05-Apr-17 02:15:40	51 FRANCISCAN WAY	Kensington	E65	321
5	1700971	06-Apr-17 10:32:40	223 TRINITY AVE	Kensington	E65	321
6	1700974	06-Apr-17 19:13:33	291 PURDUE AVE	Kensington	E65	611X
7	1700998	07-Apr-17 14:46:11	5 SUNSET DR	Kensington	E65	611X
8	1701017	08-Apr-17 20:01:52	20 FRANCISCAN WAY	Kensington	E65	321
9	1701035	10-Apr-17 21:25:14	141 SAINT ALBANS DR	Kensington	E65	550
10	1701040	11-Apr-17 08:31:20	122 PURDUE AVE	Kensington	E65	321
11	1701041	11-Apr-17 11:42:45	1 ARLMONT DR	Kensington	E65	611U
12	1701051	12-Apr-17 12:22:00	620 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E71	611F
13	1701062	13-Apr-17 10:29:48	265 GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD	Kensington	E65	611M
14	1701065	13-Apr-17 14:11:15	141 SAINT ALBANS DR	Kensington	E72	550
15	1701083	14-Apr-17 23:53:25	396 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	651
16	1701094	16-Apr-17 10:09:15	217 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	321
17	1701096	16-Apr-17 11:03:43	38 HIGHGATE RD	Kensington	E65	321
18	1701097	16-Apr-17 12:38:58	217 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	321
19	1701103	17-Apr-17 14:51:46	5 HIGHLAND BLVD	Kensington	E65	321
20	1701109	17-Apr-17 23:16:44	43 KENYON AVE	Kensington	E65	600
21	1701113	18-Apr-17 10:52:30	8 KERR AVE	KENSINGTON	E65	321
22	1701116	18-Apr-17 15:00:57	38 HIGHGATE RD	Kensington	E65	321
23	1701117	18-Apr-17 21:52:06	243 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E72	321
24	1701120	19-Apr-17 08:05:41	35 ANSON WAY	Kensington	E65	321
25	1701128	20-Apr-17 10:00:40	256 TRINITY AVE	Kensington	E65	412
26	1701134	20-Apr-17 15:34:43	119 SAINT ALBANS DR	Kensington	E65	700
27	1701141	21-Apr-17 08:48:48	8 KERR AVE	Kensington	E65	321
28	1701152	23-Apr-17 00:20:30	272 LEXINGTON DR	Kensington	E65	321
29	1701154	23-Apr-17 11:37:55	267 AMHERST AVE	Kensington	E65	321
30	1701158	23-Apr-17 18:27:14	69 STRATFORD DR	Kensington	E65	740

31	1701160	23-Apr-17 22:03:12	35 RINCON DR	Kensington	E65	321
32	1701173	25-Apr-17 17:05:55	22 AVON DR	Kensington	E65	321
33	1701182	26-Apr-17 09:00:06	69 STRATFORD DR	Kensington	E65	700

* See Attached Table for Incident Type Explanations

Type Series	Description
100	(Structure, Trash, Vehicle, Vegetation Fire)
200	(Over Pressure/Ruptures Explosions, Bombs)
300	(EMS, Vehicle Accidents, Extrication, Rescue)
400	(Chemical Spills, Leaks, Down power Lines)
500	(Distress, Water/ Smoke/Odor Problems, Public Assists)
600	(Cancelled En Route, Wrong Location)
700	(Wrong Company/Unit Dispatched)

Kensington Fire Protection District

Engine 65 Response Log for April 2017

#	Incident Number	Date & Time	Address	City	Apparatus ID	Incident Type*
1	1700922	01-Apr-17 10:51:40	620 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	611F
2	1700926	01-Apr-17 20:32:20	517 COLUSA AVE	El Cerrito	E65	321
3	1700932	02-Apr-17 07:03:27	40 KINGSTON DR	Kensington	E65	522
4	1700934	02-Apr-17 10:19:50	7788 BARON CT	El Cerrito	E65	321
5	1700951	04-Apr-17 12:01:44	8320 BUCKINGHAM DR	El Cerrito	E65	321
6	1700955	04-Apr-17 21:44:20	WILDCAT CANYON	Orinda	E65	611U
7	1700957	05-Apr-17 02:13:28	51 FRANCISCAN WAY	Kensington	E65	321
8	1700959	05-Apr-17 12:15:10	402 SEAVIEW DR	El Cerrito	E65	500
9	1700961	05-Apr-17 14:31:16	E I 80 / WILLOW	Hercules	E65	322
10	1700963	05-Apr-17 15:37:36	E 80	San Pablo	E65	611
11	1700971	06-Apr-17 10:32:40	223 TRINITY AVE	Kensington	E65	321
12	1700974	06-Apr-17 19:11:26	291 PURDUE AVE	Kensington	E65	611X
13	1700975	06-Apr-17 19:17:00	LYNN AVE	El Cerrito	E65	444
14	1700977	06-Apr-17 19:55:16	512 LIBERTY ST	El Cerrito	E65	444
15	1700978	06-Apr-17 20:28:10	MOESER LANE	El Cerrito	E65	445
16	1700985	06-Apr-17 22:00:14	MATHIEU CT	Richmond	E65	611H
17	1700987	06-Apr-17 22:08:16	EUCLID AVE	Richmond	E65	611H
18	1700996	07-Apr-17 12:35:59	909 KING DR	El Cerrito	E65	400
19	1700998	07-Apr-17 14:43:56	5 SUNSET DR	Kensington	E65	611X
20	1701017	08-Apr-17 19:58:32	20 FRANCISCAN WAY	Kensington	E65	321
21	1701034	10-Apr-17 19:56:05	6699 FAIRMOUNT AVE	El Cerrito	E65	611U
22	1701035	10-Apr-17 21:21:55	141 SAINT ALBANS DR	Kensington	E65	550
23	1701040	11-Apr-17 08:30:33	122 PURDUE AVE	Kensington	E65	321
24	1701041	11-Apr-17 11:40:52	1 ARLMONT DR	Kensington	E65	611U
25	1701043	11-Apr-17 16:02:45	1000 EL CERRITO PLZ	El Cerrito	E65	311
26	1701050	12-Apr-17 10:50:09	540 ASHBURY AVE	El Cerrito	E65	321
27	1701062	13-Apr-17 10:28:24	265 GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD	Kensington	E65	611M
28	1701070	14-Apr-17 08:21:43	10203 SAN PABLO AVE	El Cerrito	E65	700
29	1701073	14-Apr-17 12:21:57	643 LEXINGTON AVE	El Cerrito	E65	321
30	1701083	14-Apr-17 23:51:05	396 COVENTRY DR	Kensington	E65	651

31	1701094	16-Apr-17 10:09:15	217 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	321
32	1701096	16-Apr-17 11:02:28	38 HIGHGATE RD	Kensington	E65	321
33	1701097	16-Apr-17 12:36:23	217 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	321
34	1701103	17-Apr-17 14:45:53	5 HIGHLAND BLVD	Kensington	E65	600
35	1701105	17-Apr-17 17:50:49	562 ARLINGTON AVE	Berkeley	E65	611F
36	1701108	17-Apr-17 21:03:57	144 CARMEL AVE	EL CERRITO	E65	321
37	1701109	17-Apr-17 23:15:57	43 KENYON AVE	KENSINGTON	E65	321
38	1701113	18-Apr-17 10:51:39	8 KERR AVE	Kensington	E65	321
39	1701117	18-Apr-17 21:49:07	243 ARLINGTON AVE	Kensington	E65	321
40	1701120	19-Apr-17 08:04:00	35 ANSON WAY	Kensington	E65	412
41	1701127	20-Apr-17 08:58:36	936 CONTRA COSTA DR	El Cerrito	E65	444
42	1701128	20-Apr-17 09:59:05	256 TRINITY AVE	Kensington	E65	700
43	1701134	20-Apr-17 15:32:55	119 SAINT ALBANS DR	Kensington	E65	321
44	1701137	20-Apr-17 21:48:30	987 LENEVE PL	El Cerrito	E65	321
45	1701139	21-Apr-17 01:14:02	520 LIBERTY ST	El Cerrito	E65	651
46	1701141	21-Apr-17 08:43:55	8 KERR AVE	Kensington	E65	321
47	1701152	23-Apr-17 00:18:34	272 LEXINGTON DR	Kensington	E65	321
48	1701154	23-Apr-17 11:36:09	267 AMHERST AVE	Kensington	E65	321
49	1701155	23-Apr-17 15:58:00	WILDCAT CANYON / BRAZILIAN ROO	Kensington	E65	321
50	1701158	23-Apr-17 18:24:57	69 STRATFORD DR	Orinda	E65	381
51	1701160	23-Apr-17 22:00:38	35 RINCON DR	Kensington	E65	740
52	1701169	25-Apr-17 11:31:15	1508 RICHMOND ST	Kensington	E65	321
53	1701173	25-Apr-17 17:04:07	22 AVON DR	El Cerrito	E65	611M
54	1701180	26-Apr-17 07:02:13	103 Golf Course DR	Kensington	E65	321
55	1701182	26-Apr-17 08:57:37	69 STRATFORD DR	Orinda	E65	611M
56	1701188	27-Apr-17 08:21:50	920 CONTRA COSTA DR	Kensington	E65	700
57	1701190	27-Apr-17 14:36:44	6410 SCHMIDT LN	El Cerrito	E65	321
58	1701203	29-Apr-17 23:37:42	505 VILLAGE DR	El Cerrito	E65	745
				El Cerrito	E65	522

* See Attached Table for Incident Type Explanations

Type Series	Description
100	(Structure, Trash, Vehicle, Vegetation Fire)
200	(Over Pressure/Ruptures Explosions, Bombs)
300	(EMS, Vehicle Accidents, Extrication, Rescue)
400	(Chemical Spills, Leaks, Down power Lines)

500

600

700

(Distress, Water/ Smoke/Odor Problems, Public Assists)

(Cancelled En Route, Wrong Location)

(Wrong Company/Unit Dispatched)

CHIEF'S REPORT

**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

May 2017

TO: President and Board Members, Kensington Fire Protection District

FROM: Lance J. Maples, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: **Fire Chief's Report**

TRAINING 2016

In 2016, the Training Division enjoyed another strong year of training programs delivered to firefighting personnel in the areas of performance evolution standards in personal safety, engine company operations, truck company operations, rescue operations, technical rescue operations and wildland operations. In addition, there were several classes conducted for firefighter safety, hazard awareness, fire prevention/target hazards, emergency operations and emergency medical training for both Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and advanced medical training for Paramedics. We also enjoyed a very cooperative year in several program areas that included continued efforts in compliance training, expanding our partnership with California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC) and continued cooperative training agreements with all fire agencies in West Contra Costa County including Richmond Fire Department, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, Pinole Fire Department, Chevron Fire Department and Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. In 2016, we also transitioned from our previous paper training calendar and training memorandums to an electronic Fire Master Calendar. The Fire Master Calendar will be an integral tool moving into 2017 and beyond.

In 2016, we completed our eleventh year working with online training company TargetSolutions which assists us in compliance training with our Injury, Illness & Prevention Program (IIPP), City of El Cerrito policy review, Contra Costa County Operational Area policy review and didactic training prior to field training. In 2016, members of the Fire Department completed 1,071 hours of online training in 1,029 trainings that included annual hazardous materials refresher training, wildland refresher training, basic and advanced medical training, driver safety training, firefighter safety training and operational training. At the conclusion of 2016, Fire Department personnel have completed over 9,000 online training courses/activities.

In 2016, the Department continued its agreement with the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC) which is a joint labor and management training program at the state-level. Currently, we have 12 of our line personnel enrolled in the CFFJAC Program who will complete between 2,000 and 4,000 hours of training in order to earn journey level status in their perspective rank in accordance with program guidelines. Based on program guidelines these training hours generate State apprenticeship funds which are then used to pay for online training through TargetSolutions, annual maintenance of our Fireblast Fire Training Simulator, advanced life support training and other training materials.

In 2016, 143 performance evolutions were completed for personal safety, engine company operations, truck company operations and wildland operations. Training evolutions were conducted throughout the year. Each of these performance evolutions were evaluated by the shift Battalion Chief to ensure that shift personnel met the approved standards as outlined by the Standards Committee. Completed performance evolutions were also examined by the Training Division to ensure that all field personnel met the standards as outlined by the Fire Department and the Standards Committee.

In addition to the 1,071 hours of online training, Firefighters recorded 13,592 hours of training in an array of training categories that included 785 hours of emergency medical training and 1,034 hours of physical fitness training which once again demonstrates their dedication and commitment to serving our communities.

In 2016 training was also conducted in the following areas:

- Operational Training (Performance Evolutions & Quarterly Truck Training)
- Multi-Company Training with Richmond, County, Chevron, Pinole & Rodeo-Hercules
- Wildland Training for Annual Refresher, Standards, MRA Drills and Fire Trails
- Quarterly Training for Basic and Advanced EMS
- Specialized EMS Training for Alzheimer's, Dementia and Autism
- Quarterly Driver Safety and Operator Training
- Technical Rescue Training for Confined Space, LARRO, Auto Extrication
- Quarterly Safety Training, Facility Tours and Pre-Planning
- Evidence and Scene Preservation Training
- NFPA 1404 Air Management Training
- Live Fire Training in Fireblast Training Unit
- P.G. & E Gas and Electrical Training
- EBMUD Training
- Terrorism Awareness Training
- OSHA Reporting Requirements and Procedures
- High-Rise Fire Training
- Vent, Enter, Isolate and Search (VEIS) Truck and Rescue Training
- New Hire and Probationary Firefighter Training for Three New Firefighters

As we look ahead to 2017, we will continue to build on previous years training in order to plan for another year of well-rounded, dynamic training to increase firefighter safety and operational aptitude. Continued development of training partnerships will also be a key point for 2017. The full implementation of the Technical Rescue Group should also bring several training classes to the Department that will better train our personnel in technical rescue operations.

2017 will also be a year of transition for the Training Division with a new Director of Training being appointed. New Battalion Chief and Training Director, Kevin Janes, will take over May 1st and will bring new and innovative training ideas that will be a positive for the Department.

NEW BUSINESS

5/10/17

AGENDA BILL

Subject: El Cerrito / Kensington Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

Initiated by: Michael J. Bond, Fire Marshal

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a resolution establishing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Kensington Fire Protection District in its entirety.

a. In doing so, the Kensington Fire Protection District will use the plan to guide pre-wildland urban interface fire (WUI Fires) mitigation Federal Grant applications.

b. Once receiving Federal Grant funding the CWPP will be used to guide the development of those mitigation projects.

c. After implementation of the plan the District will continue to support the partnership developed and described in the CWPP.

d. The Kensington Fire Protection District will promote and support the mitigation success of the CWPP planning partnership.

BACKGROUND

The first county-wide Contra Costa County CWPP in 2009 began with compilation of existing documents, analysis of fire behavior potential (based on fuels, topography and historical weather conditions) and collaboration with homeowners, representatives of special interest groups and agency officials. In 2014 - 2015 an Updated Contra Costa County Plan was revised through a similar County-wide planning effort that reviewed the plan, updated relevant sections and refined priority actions.

In 2015 the Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) and the El Cerrito Fire Department (ECFD) began investigating the development of an El Cerrito / Kensington CWPP. Since then, the ECFD and DFSC have held community outreach meetings in El Cerrito and Kensington engaging citizen groups, the general public and Cal Fire in conjunction with electronic surveys to develop an understanding of the community's wildfire awareness and concerns.

After collecting and interpreting the community surveys a draft CWPP was created based on scientific, historical, community concerns and the ECFD's understanding of relevant wildfire risks of wildfire fuels, topography and historical weather conditions. This undertaking was completed by the utilization and collaboration of homeowners, representatives of special interest groups and agency officials.

A final community meeting was conducted in March 2017 where the draft CWPP was presented to the committee for review and approval.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION

The El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Action Plan provides an analysis of wildfire hazards and risks in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) of the City of El Cerrito and unincorporated community of Kensington in Contra Costa County, California. The Plan is an appendix to the Contra Costa Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and follows the standards for CWPPs that have been established by the federal Healthy Forest Restoration Act, including:

1. Identifying and prioritizing fuel reduction opportunities across the county.
2. Addressing structural ignitability
3. Collaborating with stakeholders

Based on the analysis, recommendations have been identified to aid stakeholders in preventing and reducing the threat of wildfire. The Plan complements local agreements and existing plans for wildfire protection for a coordinated effort in determining appropriate fire management actions. The Contra Costa Countywide CWPP is the result of an area-wide planning effort.

The El Cerrito / Kensington Wildfire Action Plan looks at similar issues, but allows for a more detailed investigation and customized recommendations for El Cerrito and Kensington communities. The goal of the plan is to reduce hazards through increased information and education about wildfires, hazardous fuels reduction, actions to reduce structure ignitability and other recommendations to assist emergency preparedness and fire suppression efforts. Most importantly it facilitates a coordinated effort between the various stakeholders.

The El Cerrito / Kensington Community Wildfire Protection Plan blends seamlessly into the District's fire prevention and risk reduction goals by providing a clear vision and direction for establishing and maintaining a well balanced urban / wildland interface environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The CWPP does not require anyone to conduct any work. It allows the citizens to apply for and receive vegetation management grants that would not otherwise be available to them. In addition, the CWPP provides best management standards that have been specifically designed for our area. These best management practices have also been vetted by the US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and the US Fish and Wildlife.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan does not require the District to fund or incur any expenses. The CWPP provides the opportunity to apply for and receive grant monies. When grants are applied for by the District, all financial regulations and requirements

will need to be followed. Citizen grant applications shall be the responsibility of the person(s) applying for the grant.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The District's Attorney has reviewed and the process.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution establishing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Kensington Fire Protection District in its entirety.

Reviewed by: *MJB for Michael Bond*
Michael J. Bond, Fire Marshal

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 17-01
2. Exhibit A – El Cerrito / Kensington Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

RESOLUTION 17-01

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2017 COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

WHEREAS, all of the Kensington Fire Protection District has exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk of harm to life, property, environment and the District's economy;

WHEREAS, all of Kensington Fire Protection District is within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone which places those homes and nearby homes in a much greater risk of a catastrophic wildland urban interface fire; and

WHEREAS, for the development of the 2017 Community Wildfire Prevention Plan, a coalition of citizens from El Cerrito, Kensington, Diablo Fire Safe Council, Cal Fire and other agency stakeholders was formed to create realistic and achievable mitigation objectives to enhance and protect the homes and community from devastating wildland urban interface; and

WHEREAS, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) provides guidance and direction for the District and the residents to apply for federally funded wildfire risk reduction plans as well as provides further guidance in mitigation strategies for both fuel reduction projects and structure modifications to reduce the risk of catastrophic urban wildfire here in the Kensington Fire Protection District; and

WHEREAS, the planning partnership has completed a planning process that engaged the public, assessed the risk vulnerability to the impacts of wildland urban interface fires, developed mitigation strategies consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and created a plan to enable the District and our citizens to be able to apply for and receive federal grants to achieve those goals; and

WHEREAS, this planning process resulted in the creation of the El Cerrito-Kensington Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Kensington Fire Protection District that it hereby:

Adopts a resolution establishing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Kensington Fire Protection District in its entirety.

- a. In doing so, the Kensington Fire Protection District will use the plan to guide pre-wildland urban interface fire (WUI Fires) mitigation Federal Grant applications.

- b. Once receiving Federal Grant funding the CWPP will be used to guide the development of those mitigation projects.
- c. After implementation of the plan the District will continue to support the partnership developed and described in the CWPP.
- d. The Kensington Fire Protection District will promote and support the mitigation success of the CWPP planning partnership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Kensington Fire Protection District will continue its support of the Steering Committee and continue to participate in the Planning Partnership as described by the CCCHMP.

* * * * *

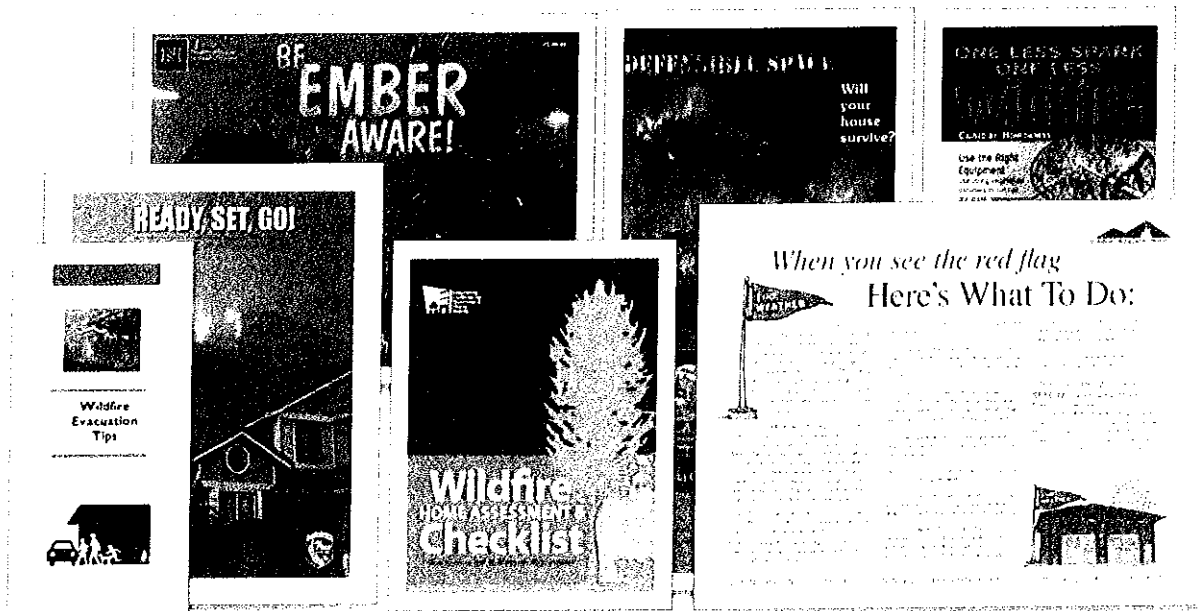
The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kensington Fire Protection District on the 10th day of May 2017, by the following vote of the Board:

AYES: BOARD MEMBERS:
NOES: BOARD MEMBERS:
ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS:

Don Dommer, President

ATTEST:

Larry Nagel, Secretary



El Cerrito - Kensington Wildfire Action Plan

An Appendix to the Contra Costa Countywide
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
Contra Costa County

Prepared by
Diablo Fire Safe Council

In conjunction with the
El Cerrito Fire Department
Kensington Fire Protection District
Stakeholder Committee Members



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Section 7: Signature Page

Additional Materials from the planning process available at:
www.diablofiresafe.org/El-Cerrito-Kensington-CWPP-AP.html

Executive Summary

The El Cerrito - Kensington Wildfire Action Plan provides an analysis of wildfire hazards and risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) of the City of El Cerrito and unincorporated community of Kensington in Contra Costa County, California. The Plan is an appendix to the Contra Costa Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and follows the standards for CWPPs established by the federal Healthy Forest Restoration Act, including:

1. Identifying and prioritizing fuel reduction opportunities across the county
See Section 2: Fire Hazard and Risk in the Wildland Urban Interface and Section 4: Prioritizing Fuel Reduction Vegetation Management Treatments
2. Addressing structural ignitability
See Section 5: Prioritized Treatment of Structural Ignitability
3. Collaborating with stakeholders
See Section 1.2: The Planning Process and Stakeholders

Based on analysis, recommendations have been identified to aid stakeholders in reducing the threat of wildfire. The Plan complements local agreements and existing plans for wildfire protection for a coordinated effort in determining appropriate fire management actions.

The Contra Costa Countywide CWPP is the result of an area-wide planning effort. The El Cerrito Kensington Fire Action Plan looks at similar issues, but allows for a more detailed investigation and customized recommendations for El Cerrito and Kensington communities. The first countywide CWPP in 2009 began with compilation of existing documents, analysis of fire behavior potential (based on fuels, topography and historical weather conditions) and collaboration with homeowners, representatives of special interest groups and agency officials. In 2014 - 2015 an Updated Plan was revised through a similar area-wide planning effort that reviewed the plan, updated relevant sections and refined priority actions.

The goal of the plan is to reduce hazard through increased information and education about wildfires, hazardous fuels reduction, actions to reduce structure ignitability and other recommendations to assist emergency preparedness and fire suppression efforts. Most important, it facilitates a coordinated effort between the various stakeholders.

Recommendations

The El Cerrito Kensington Fire Action Plan recommendations are organized into four categories of mitigation related to:

- Information, Education and Collaborative Planning
- Enhanced Suppression Capability and Emergency Preparedness
- Fuel Reduction Treatments around Homes and on Public Lands
- Improving Structure Survivability

Priority Action overviews are provided for a four of priority activities. These summaries identify implementation steps, lead and partners, timeframes and funding needs. A list is included of geographically-based, priority fuel reduction projects and prevention strategies.

The El Cerrito Kensington Fire Action Plan is a multi-year guiding document that will facilitate the implementation of present and future mitigation efforts. It is important to note that the El Cerrito - Kensington Fire Action Plan is a working document and will need to be updated bi-annually and after major "events" such as wildfire, flood, insect infestation, significant new home development as well as the regional update of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan or General Plan Safety Elements.

Introduction

Wildfire records for the western portion of Contra Costa County around El Cerrito and Kensington document an active, damaging and costly wildfire history. There is little question that the area's unique ecology – particularly the topography, climate and vegetation – provides the setting for catastrophic wildfire to strike. While large-scale wildfires do not occur every year, wildfire incidents driven by extreme wind conditions have repeatedly been difficult to contain. Residential development in the wildland urban interface (WUI) along with the introduction and proliferation of exotic species exacerbates this problem by putting more people, property, critical infrastructure and natural resources in harm's way. In order to reduce the risk of loss of life and property due to wildfire, the Diablo Fire Safe Council and project partners have worked with residents, representatives of federal, regional, state and local agencies, and community organizations to develop this focused Appendix to the Contra Costa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Although the format of this plan is guided by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act's (HFRA) call for such plans, the principles behind it are not new. The National and State Fire Plans, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and several locally developed documents all mandate community-based planning efforts, coordination, project identification, prioritization, funding review and multi-agency cooperation. Unique benefits of the CWPP include:

- The opportunity to establish a locally appropriate definition and boundary for the WUI.
- The requirement for federal agencies, when planning fuel reduction projects, to give priority to projects that provide for the protection of at-risk communities or watersheds, or that implement recommendations in a CWPP.
- Expedited National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures for federal agencies implementing fuel reduction projects identified in a CWPP.

Since within Contra Costa County there are few federally owned lands, the stakeholder group discussed what the Contra Costa County CWPP Update should include and why both the County-wide plan and the focused Appendices are of value to us. The ideas can be grouped around several themes including overall planning and participation, fuel reduction projects, increased public awareness and involvement in prevention, balance of wildfire hazard reduction and environmental protection, fire resistant structures. Many common challenges and shared solutions were identified and a few selected for development with action plans.

*Funding provided by a grant from the
Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service,
Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region,
through the California Fire Safe Council*

Scope

The scope of this Fire Action Plan focuses on the City of El Cerrito and the unincorporated community of Kensington in western Contra Costa County. The plan does the following:

1. Describes the fire environment of the area.
2. Identifies values at risk as defined by the stakeholders.
3. Provides maps that show high fire hazard areas, as defined by federal, state and local authorities.
4. Establishes the rationale for prioritization of fuel management projects and treatment methods, as well as outlines principles for selection of projects when funding is available.
5. Describes measures communities and homeowners can take to reduce the ignitability of structures.
6. Identifies sources for Best Management Practices for fuel reduction treatments included in the plan.
7. Identifies federal, state and local resources (fire, wildlife, regulatory agencies, landscape groups, etc.)

Purpose

The purpose of the El Cerrito - Kensington Wildfire Action Plan is to protect human life and reduce loss of property, critical infrastructure and natural resources due to wildfire. The document builds on the Countywide CWPP and is intended to help agencies, communities and local homeowners define, plan and prioritize types of actions that will limit the damage associated with the inevitable wildland fire event. This plan can be used to reduce the risk of conflagration by the following actions:

1. Increased collaborative planning and cooperative actions that will build useful relationships between communities and agencies.
2. Reduction of hazardous fuels in the WUI.
3. Creation and maintenance of defensible space for structures and properties.
4. Reduction of structural ignitability hazards.
5. Planning of evacuation protocols and drills.

The stakeholders in this effort believe that the work outlined above requires a collaborative approach that combines the following elements:

- Development and implementation of strategic, cost effective, sustainable and environmentally sensitive hazardous fuel management plans;
- Educational programs that explain fire risk, promote voluntary citizen involvement and emphasize long-term strategies for creating and maintaining fire resistant communities.
- Application of resources to areas and projects where efficacy is most probable.

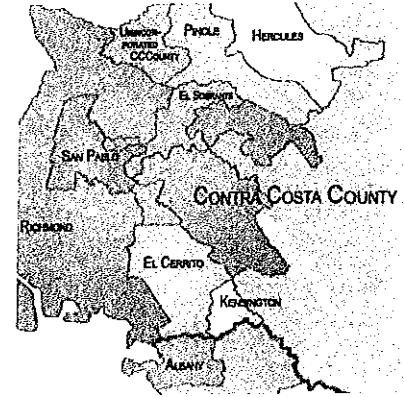
To that end, stakeholder participation and regular review are central to maintaining the ideas and priorities of the Fire Action Plan in the future. The dynamic nature of the plan will reflect changes in practices, technology and information available to prevent and minimize loss from wildfire.

El Cerrito - Kensington Information

1.1 Area Overview

The City of El Cerrito is located on the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay in the western portion of Contra Costa County. Immediately to the southeast is the unincorporated community of Kensington located in the east bay hills.

The City of El Cerrito was incorporated in 1917. As of the 2010 census, El Cerrito's population was 23,549 (with a 2014 estimated population of 24,599). The census also lists the city with a total area of 3.7 square miles for a total of 6,385.3 people per square mile.¹ There are 10,142 households and homeownership rate is 60.6% (from 2009-2013), well over the state rate of 55.3%, with 2.39 persons per household and a median house value of \$589,100. Population age distribution is: 17.4% under the age of 18, 5.4% aged 18 to 24, 29.4% aged 25 to 44, 22.9% aged 45 to 64 and 17.9% aged 65 or older. A 2011 economic forecast listed Contra Costa County, along with Alameda County (East Bay metro area), as the third highest median family income in California, with El Cerrito's median household income at \$88,380. Population growth was positive with an increase between the 2010 census and the 2014 estimate of 4.3%, slightly faster than the state average of 4.2%.²



City of El Cerrito and unincorporated community of Kensington are located in the western portion of Contra Costa

The unincorporated community of Kensington has a total population of 5,077 in an area, just under 1 square mile. There are 2,199 households and homeownership rate is 82.9%, with an average of 2.31 persons per household. Property values vary greatly in this area depending on acreage and improvements, from \$550,000 to \$2.3 million.³

Contra Costa County has experienced two very large growth spurts, one in the World War II years and another over the last 20 years. By 2030, Contra Costa County is anticipated to have over 1.2 million residents (or an additional 228,500 people).⁴ El Cerrito and Kensington experienced their major growth post World War II. In 1950, El Cerrito's population grew from 7,000 to 16,000, and Kensington's peaked at 6,061.⁵ Both communities are primarily built out. Future growth is limited by land available, in-fill development and re-use of existing sites. These two communities are closely tied to the entire San Francisco Bay area, a region with well-educated residents, a robust economy, an increasingly diverse population and high cost of living.

¹ Data from: <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/0621796,0621782,0613882> accessed 3/23/2015.

² Data from http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/eab/socio_economic_files/2013/Contra_Costa.pdf accessed 11/18/2014.

³ Data from: http://www.zillow.com/homes/recently_sold/Kensington-CA/39222_rid/37.909339,-122.268133,37.901551,-122.284162_rect/15_zm/ accessed 1/31/2017

⁴ Data from: <http://www.bayareavisio.org/bayarea/cc.html/> accessed 11/29/11

⁵ "El Cerrito Historical Evolution," by Edward Staniford. <http://www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?NID=365> accessed 1/31/17.

Geographic Features

El Cerrito and Kensington are located on the west-facing slope of the East Bay Hills, within the northern portion of the Coast Range characterized by northwest-southeast trending mountain ranges. Highest Peak is William Rust Summit at 1010 feet elevation. The range formed millions of years ago as a result of uplift along the San Andreas, San Pablo and Hayward faults and other subsidiary faults. The Hayward fault is the nearest active fault. The complex geological history has resulted in diverse soils, hydrology and topography. Virtually all the hillsides in the north and east of El Cerrito and in Kensington are prone to landslide. El Cerrito is divided into two topographic regions: the lower elevations characterized by a traditional grid street pattern and the steeper slopes with a street pattern that follows the contours of the land. Kensington is entirely located within steep terrain resulting in numerous people inhabiting areas where narrow roads make it difficult to access under emergency conditions.

Climate, Temperature and Rainfall

El Cerrito and Kensington have a "Mediterranean" climate with mild winters and hot dry summers. Winter lows are typically in the 30s and summer highs can be above 90° Fahrenheit. Precipitation depends upon the season, location and topography with an average of 22 inches annual rainfall.

Natural Resources

Over the years the region has seen significant acreage set aside as parkland, open space and protected watershed lands. East of El Cerrito and Kensington are Tilden Regional Park and watershed lands for East Bay Municipal Utility District's San Pablo Reservoir. Within El Cerrito the most significant public open space is the Hillside Natural Area. Additional public open space is in 11 developed parks, the Ohlone Greenway, school playfields and several pocket parks. Private open space includes: Mira Vista County Club, Sunset View Cemetery and Camp Herms Boy Scout Camp. Kensington public open space includes Kensington Park. Private open space includes large private properties such as Blake Garden and the Carmelite Monastery, and community facilities such as the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Watersheds

The El Cerrito and Kensington area has two historically important watersheds that drain from the ridge to the San Francisco Bay: Baxter Creek and Cerrito Creek.⁶ Baxter Creek is located in the north with three branches in Richmond and El Cerrito. Cerrito Creek in Kensington and El Cerrito forms the boundary of Contra Costa County with adjacent Alameda County. Cerrito Creek includes several additional tributaries, including the North Fork of Cerrito Creek stretching through both communities. Many of the creeks in these two watersheds were lined or culverted during the first half of the 20th century. A large percentage of the creeks and drainage-ways are located on private property. Other reaches run through neighborhood parks or have more recently been "daylighted" and the natural creek restored.

⁶ Source: Contra Costa County Watershed Atlas, 2003 <http://cocowaterweb.org/publications/> Accessed 1/31/2017.

<http://www.sfei.org/documents/east-contra-costa-historical-ecology-study>

Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat

The scarcity of undeveloped land in El Cerrito and Kensington has a limiting effect on vegetation and wildlife habitat. Important ecological communities include:

- Grass dominated communities: predominantly annual grasslands dominated by grasses and forbs, but also areas of native grassland (valley needlegrass grassland) and ruderal (disturbed areas with sparse typically weedy non-native vegetation).
- Scrub dominated communities: consisting of woody vegetation dominated by shrubs (soft chaparral) with scattered trees. Dominant species include coyote brush, toyon, ceanothus, California sagebrush, with lupine and sticky monkeyflower as associates.
- Oak woodland communities: oak woodland (coast live oak), mixed with California bay, and deciduous trees such as buckeye and big leaf maple.
- Riparian woodland/ riparian scrub associated with drainages, intermittent, ephemeral and permanent streams and permanent water sources. May contain understory of shrubs and forbs. Salt marsh habitats are found near the San Francisco Bay.
- Other landscape features: rock outcrops, springs and seeps; landslides; ecotones; disturbed areas and developed landscaped areas.
- Exotic invasive species: stands of exotic and invasive species such as French broom, pampas grass and eucalyptus groves can be found throughout the El Cerrito and Kensington area.

A review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) indicates three sensitive natural communities occur within the "Richmond Quad" including El Cerrito and Kensington:⁷ North Coastal Salt Marsh, Northern Maritime Chaparral and Valley Needlegrass Grassland.

Several plants and animals that are designated as "special status" occur near El Cerrito and Kensington (rare, threatened or endangered species, or candidates for such designation). These include both federally- and state-listed species, as well as those identified by the California Native Plant Society. Information about Federally protected species, vegetation and habitat is included in the *Best Management Practices Guidebook for Fuel Management Treatments in Contra Costa County* (developed for in 2009 as part of the Contra Costa County CWPP),⁸ and other resource documents. Rare and sensitive species that are known to occur or have the potential to occur in the area include:

Plants

- Halls redtop (*Agrostis hallii*)
- Bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*)
- Coast rockcress (*Arabis blepharophylla*)
- Pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*)
- Longtail wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*)
- Alkali milk-vetch (*Astragalus tneer var tener*)
- Cascades Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*)
- Big tarplant (*Blepharizonia plumose*)

⁷ Source: California Natural Diversity Database: <https://map.dfg.ca.gov/bios/?tool=cnddbQuick> based on 9 quad search accessed 2/14/17.

⁸ *Best Management Practices Guidebook for Fuel Management Treatments in Contra Costa County* is available online at www.diablofiresafe.org/publications.html - BMP

- Round-leaved filaree (*California macrophylla*)
- Oakland star tulip (*Calochortus umbellatus*)
- Coastal bluff morning-glory (*Calystegia pururata ssp. saxicola*)
- Hill sun cup (*Camissonia graciflora*)
- Congdon's tarplant (*Centromadia parryi spp. congdoni*)
- Smooth stem sedge (*Carex laeviculmis*)
- Bolander's water hemlock (*Cicuta maculate var. bolanderi*)
- Franciscan thistle (*Cirsium andrewsii*)
- Alameda County thistle (*Cirsium quercetorum*)
- Presidio clarkia (*Clarkia francisana*)
- Point Reyes bird's beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus spp palistris*)
- Torrye's cryptantha (*Crpthanata torreyana*)
- Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*)
- California wheat grass (*Elymus stebbinsii*)
- Jepson's coyote thistle (*Eryngium jepsonii*)
- Minute pocket moss (*Fissidens pauperculus*)
- Fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*)
- San Francisco gumplant (*Grindelia hirsutula var. maritime*)
- Diablo helianthella (*Helianthella castanea*)
- Congested headed hayfield tarplant (*Hemixonia congesta spp. congesta*)
- Hogwallow starfish (*Hesperevax caulescens*)
- Loma Prieta hoita (*Hoita strobilina*)
- Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpa macradenia*)
- California horkelia (*Horkelia californica ssp. californica*)
- Douglas' iris (*Iris douglasiana*)
- Central coast iris (*Iris longipetala*)
- Carquinez goldenbrush (*Isocoma arguta*)
- Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*)
- Pointed rush (*Juncus oxymersis*)
- Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*)
- Tall layia (*Layia hieracoides*)
- San Francisco lessingia (*Lessingia germanorum*)
- Lovage (*Ligusticum apifolium*)
- Mason's lilaeopsis (*Lilaeopsis masonii*)
- Manycolored lupine (*Lupinus variicolor*)
- Woolly malacothrix (*Malacothrix floccifera*)
- Mt. Diablo cottonweed (*Micropus amphibious*)
- Oregon meconella (*Meconella oregonana*)
- Large leaved sandwort (*Moehringia macrophylla*)
- Woodland woolythreads (*Monolopia gracilens*)
- California wax myrtle (*Morella californica*)
- Robust monardella (*Monardella villosa globosa*)
- Fire poppy (*Paperver californicum*)
- White-rayed pentachaeta (*Penachaeta bellidiflora*)
- Western coltsfoot (*petasites frigidus var. palmatus*)
- Choris' popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus*)
- San Francisco popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys diffuses*)
- Michael's piperia (*Piperia michaelii*)
- Lobb's aquatic buttercup (*Ranunculus lobbii*)
- Golden current (*Ribes aureum var. gracillimum*)
- Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana var nutkana*)
- Adobe sanicle (*Sanicula maritime*)
- Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*)
- California skullcap (*Scutellaria californica*)

- Most beautiful jewel flower (*Streptanthus albidus ssp. peramoenus*)
- California seablite (*Suaeda californica*)
- White panicle aster (*Symphotricum lanceolatum var. hypericum*)
- Saline clover (*Trifolium hydrophilum*)
- Pacific trillium (*Trillium ovatum spp. Ovatum*)
- Coastal triquetrella (*Triquetrella californica*)
- Oval leaved viburnum (*Viburnum illicium*)

Amphibians & Reptiles

- California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*)
- California giant salamander (*Dicamptodon ensatus*)
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)
- Alameda striped racer (whipsnake) (*Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*)
- Foothill yellow legged frog (*Rana boylei*)
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)
- Coast range newt (*Taricha torosa*)

Birds

- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*)
- Sharp shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)
- Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)
- Tule greater white fronted goose (*Anser albifrons elgisi*)
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Great egret (*Ardea alba*)
- Great blue heron (*Ardea Herodias*)
- Short eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)
- Long eared owl (*Asio otus*)
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
- Oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*)
- American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
- Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
- Cackling goose (*Branta hutchinsii leucopareia*)
- Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*)
- Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*)
- Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
- Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*)
- White tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*)
- Willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trillii*)
- California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
- Saltmarsh common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*)
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Caspian tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)
- California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*)
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
- Alameda song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia pusillula*)
- San Pablo song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia samuelis*)
- Long billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*)
- Black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
- Osprey (*Pandion Haliaeetus*)
- Bryant's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus*)
- California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*)

- Double crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)
- Yellow billed magpie (*Pica nuttalli*)
- California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*)
- Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*)
- Rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)
- Yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechial*)
- Lawrence's goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*)
- California least tern (*Sternula antillarum*)
- Yellow headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Fish

- Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)
- White sturgeon (*Acipenser trnsmontanus*)
- Sacramento perch (*Archoplits interruptus*)
- Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)
- Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*)
- Sacramento-San Joaquin tule perch (*Hysterocarpus traski traski*)
- River lamprey (*Lampetra ayresii*)
- Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)
- Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)
- Chinook salmon spring + winter run (*Oncorhynchus tsawytscha*)
- Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*)
- Longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*)
- Eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)

Insects + Invertebrates

- Opler's longhorn moth (*Adlea oplerella*)
- Obscure bumble bee (*Bombus caliginosus*)
- Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lunchi*)
- Sand beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela hirticollis gravida*)
- Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
- Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*)
- Bridges' coast range shoulderband (*Helminthoglypta nicklianiana bridgesii*)
- Bumblebee scarab beetle (*Lichnanthe ursine*)
- Lee's micro-blind harvestman (*Microcina leei*)
- Plebejus icarioides missionensis (*Mission blue butterfly*)
- Callippe silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria callippe callippe*)
- San Francisco's Bay area leaf cutter bee (*Trachusa gummifera*)

Mammals

- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
- Berkeley kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys heermanni berkeleyensis*)
- Southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*)
- Silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)
- Western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*)
- Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
- San Pablo vole (*Microtus californicus sanpabloensis*)
- Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)
- San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*)
- Big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*)
- Salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*)
- Angel Island mole (*Scapanus latimanus insularis*)
- Alameda Island mole (*Scapanus latimanus parvus*)

- Suisun shrew (*Sorex ornatus sinuosus*)
- Salt-march wandering shrew (*Sorex vagrans halicoetes*)
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)
- Point Reyes jumping mouse (*Zapus trinitatus orarius*)

The area also contains federally designated "critical habitat" for two species⁹:

- Alameda striped racer (formerly called Alameda whipsnake) (*Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*),
- Red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*),

Contra Costa County (covering Kensington) and the City of El Cerrito both have tree related ordinances. Contra Costa County includes protection of "Heritage Trees" with diameter breast height more than 22.9 inches and trees or groves of trees worthy of protection due to historical or ecological interest. Contra Costa County also has "Protected Trees" which are indigenous trees (oaks, pines, buckeye, black walnut, willows, redwood, maple, elderberry, toyon, alder, cottonwood and madrone with diameter breast height of 6 ½ inches or more).

The El Cerrito Municipal Code prohibits five species from being planted in the City of El Cerrito due to their rapid growth, height at maturity, dense foliage, shallow root structure, flammability, breakability or invasiveness. These include: coast redwood, Monterey cypress, Monterey pine, blue gum eucalyptus and red gum eucalyptus. The City also has an ordinance related to obstruction of views by trees on private property.¹⁰ An Urban Forest Management Plan and Urban Greening Plan offer additional strategies for the management of city vegetation.

Public Lands Management

There are three public entities that manage large areas of lands in or adjacent to El Cerrito and Kensington for public access and recreation.

East Bay Regional Park Districts (EBRPD) is a special district that offers developed and dispersed recreation opportunities in over 120,931 acres in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The 2,789-acre Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, 740-acre Tilden Nature Area and a portion of Tilden Regional Park are located east of El Cerrito and Kensington. Dispersed park activities include hiking, biking, horseback riding and picnicking. The Nature Area includes the Tilden Little Farm and Environmental Education Center, regional destinations that offer interpretive programs for schools, organized groups as well as the general public.¹¹ Hazardous fuel management activities in the areas adjacent to El Cerrito and Kensington include seasonal goat grazing, cattle grazing and hand labor. A seven-member elected Board of Directors manages the Park District.

City of El Cerrito manages El Cerrito's largest open space, the 102.5-acre Hillside Natural Area. Located on steep slopes, the area is surrounded by single-family residences.¹² The area includes an abandoned quarry, woodlands, grasslands and several intermittent watercourses. Recreational use of the area includes hiking, walking, dog walking and biking along the trails and fire roads, with access through several neighborhood entry

⁹US Fish and Wildlife Service. Critical Habitat Mapper. <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77> accessed 2/8/2017

¹⁰ Source: <http://ca-elcerrito.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=467> and https://www.municode.com/library/ca/el_cerrito/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT10PUPEMOWE_CH10.90OB_VITRPRPR accessed 2/21/2017.

¹¹ Source: <http://www.ebparks.org> accessed 2/2/2017.

¹² Source: El Cerrito. Urban Greening Plan 2015. <http://www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?NID=928>

points. The Hillside Natural Area has three areas: "Motorcycle Hill" located north of Portrero Avenue, "Madera Property" acquired in 2014 south of Portrero Avenue and the main portion of the area that extends south from Wildwood Creek to the PG&E property on Moeser Lane. The City of El Cerrito is governed by a five-member City Council.

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) is a special district that provides police protection services, park and recreation programs and manages garbage pickup and park operations. They manage the 9-acre Kensington Community Park. A five-member elected Board governs KPPCSD.

Federal Lands

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): While there are no BLM lands in the El Cerrito and Kensington area, local stakeholders work with BLM staff from the Hollister Office in conjunction with federal grants for public education and fuel reduction projects.

US Forest Service (USFS): While there are no USFS lands in the El Cerrito and Kensington area, local stakeholders work with USFS staff from the Vallejo Office in conjunction with federal grants for public education and fuel reduction projects. The USFS often provides grant funding through the California Fire Safe Council.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): While there are no USFWS lands in the El Cerrito and Kensington area, local stakeholders work with USFWS regional and zone fire management programs, the Recovery Program on critical habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake, and in Section 7 consultations for Biological Opinions related to fuel modification projects. USFWS funded the Diablo Fire Safe Council's development of the Best Management Practices Guidebook for Hazardous Fuel Treatments in Contra Costa County, California in 2009 by a grant through the California Fire Safe Council.

Other Land Managing Entities

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), incorporated in California in 1905, is one of the largest combination natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, their service area stretches from Eureka in the north to Bakersfield in the south, and from the Pacific Ocean in the west to the Sierra Nevada in the east. PG&E utilizes a program of Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) to manage vegetation on transmission rights-of-ways. Properly maintained right-of-ways (ROW) are essential for the safety of the public and workers. The long-term goal of their vegetation management program is to provide for public safety, worker safety, and environmental safety while providing for reliable service.¹³ El Cerrito and Kensington are located in PG&E's East Bay Division. PG&E high-voltage transmission lines are located in El Cerrito along Moeser Lane and run from the Sobrante and Valley View substations to a substation located between Schmidt Lane and Portola Drive immediately south of the Hillside Natural Area.¹⁴ Local distribution lines also serve individual homes and businesses throughout the community.

East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD): In addition to the San Pablo Reservoir watershed lands to the east, EBMUD manages two facilities in Kensington: the 22-acre San Pablo Water Treatment Plant and Summit Reservoir which is in the process of being replaced with a new tank, associated facilities and additional native plantings on the 7-acre site. EBMUD also manages two tank sites in El Cerrito (Summit North and Arlington reservoirs) along with other facilities for water delivery.

¹³ Source: <http://www.pge.com/> accessed 1/5/16

¹⁴ Source: Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Renewable Auction Mechanism (RAM) Program <https://www.pge.com/b2b/energysupply/wholesaleelectricissolicitation/PVRFO/PVRAMMap/index.shtml> accessed 1/5/16

Fire Protection Agencies

The El Cerrito Fire Department and Kensington Fire Protection District provide professional fire protection services to the communities. Beginning in 1995, the Kensington Fire Protection District entered into a contract with the City of El Cerrito whereby El Cerrito would provide all fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency services within Kensington for an annual fee. The efforts of these local fire protection agencies are made even more effective through common training in the national incident management systems (NIMS), incident command system (ICS) and the California standardized emergency management system (SEMS) that are used to manage response to multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction emergencies. Master mutual aid plans and automatic aid agreements also bring together resources from outside of the region.

California Forestry and Fire Protection Agency (CAL FIRE): Santa Clara Unit (SCU) provides fire protection for state responsibility areas (SRA). These include East Bay Regional Park District lands in Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Regional Parks located outside of City of El Cerrito and Community of Kensington. SCU also provides fire protection in the SRA of other portions of Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara counties and a portion of San Joaquin County.

East Bay Regional Park District Fire Department: EBRPD Fire Department provides professional fire, medical and aquatic services for emergencies that occur within and adjacent to park district lands. A branch of the Public Safety Division, services include emergency response, search and rescue, fuels management, fire danger and weather information and lifeguard services.

Other Local Stakeholders

Bay View Refuse and Recycling provides curbside green material pickup every other week to the community of Kensington to recycle yard trimmings.

Contra Costa County: The unincorporated community of Kensington is governed by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, and represented by District I Supervisor John Gioia. Supervisor Gioia also serves the unincorporated communities of El Sobrante, North Richmond, Montalvin Manor, East Richmond Heights, Tara Hills and Rollingwood, in addition to Kensington. A five-person volunteer citizen advisory group, Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC), provides input to the Board of Supervisors on Kensington issues. Other stakeholders in Contra Costa County include: Animal Service, Conservation and Development, Department of Public Works and the Sherriff's Department.

Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) a non-profit organization formed in 1992 to bring together homeowners and agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to reduce the impact of wildfire. Programs include planning, outreach, education and cost share assistance for hazardous fuel removal.

El Cerrito Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) teaches neighbors to help themselves and each other. The City of El Cerrito Fire Department and the Kensington Fire Protection District have been strongly committed since 1992 providing its citizens with the ability to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours and beyond in the event of a major disaster. In addition, the CERT Program is a founding member of the Contra Costa County CERT Committee, which oversees citizen preparedness throughout the County.

El Cerrito Trail Trekkers formed in order to build, maintain, publicize and use the little known urban trails of El Cerrito, California.

Friends of Five Creeks, founded in 1996, is an all-volunteer citizens group operating under the fiscal sponsorship of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. They are a hands-on group that mobilizes volunteers of all ages to restore, maintain, and

enjoy the creeks and watersheds of the East Bay from North Berkeley to Richmond. In year-round work parties, they help revitalize creeks, improve habitat and water quality, eliminate invasive plant species, and increase public access and stewardship. They have several projects in the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area.

Kensington Amateur Radio Operators (KARO) and El Cerrito Ham Operators (ECHO) are two groups of amateur radio operators who live in Kensington and El Cerrito and have agreed to support these communities' emergency preparedness activities in conjunction with local CERT programs.

Kensington Public Safety Council (KPSC) has a mission to educate the community on how to prepare for emergencies, strengthen citizen emergency response infrastructure and promote community public safety initiatives. KPSC is integrated with CERT training through the Kensington Fire Protection District.

Kensington Fuel Reduction Group ("the Elves") consist of several groups of homeowners who develop and manage fuel reduction projects along the boundary of Kensington and Wildcat Canyon Regional Park in partnership with EBRPD and DFSC. Since 2009, "Right of Entry" agreements have been in place to guide this work.

Kensington Outlook is a community newsletter that covers local events and issues. The nonprofit Kensington Community Council publishes the Outlook ten times a year.

Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, Boy Scouts of America (MDSC) owns and operates Camp Herms, a year-round camp located on James Place in the El Cerrito hills. Opened in 1930, camp activities include campouts and training. Facilities include a meeting lodge with kitchen, campsites and sleeping shelters.

West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD): Based in Richmond, WCCUSD covers the cities of El Cerrito, San Pablo, Pinole and Hercules and the unincorporated areas of Bayview-Montalvin Manor, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, North Richmond and Tara Hills.

1.2 The Planning Process & Stakeholders

The development of the El-Cerrito Kensington Wildfire Action Plan: An Appendix to the Contra Costa Countywide CWPP was made possible through a grant from the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council. The grant would not have been possible without matching in kind services of many stakeholders.

The planning process followed a four-step process that included 4 stakeholder meetings and outreach to the community. Materials were posted on the Diablo Fire Safe Council web site at <http://www.diablofiresafe.org/El-Cerrito-Kensington-CWPP-AP.html>.

State, local and private agencies, companies, organizations and special interest groups, as well as the residents of El Cerrito and Kensington participated in the development and review of this Plan. Stakeholders included:

CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit	El Cerrito Fire Department
Camp Herms (Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, Boy Scouts of America)	El Cerrito Historical Society
California Native Plant Society	El Cerrito Public Works
Carmelite Monastery, Kensington	El Cerrito Trail Trekkers
Contra Costa County	El Cerrito Tree Committee and Green Teams
Diablo Fire Safe Council	Friends of Five Creeks
East Bay Regional Park District Fire Department	Friends of Kensington Community Center
East Bay Regional Park District Wildcat Canyon Regional Park	Kensington Fire Protection District
East Bay Municipal Utility District	Kensington Fuel Reduction Group
ECHO and KARO (amateur radio groups)	Kensington Police Protection Community Services Board
El Cerrito City Arborist	Mira Vista Golf Club
El Cerrito Community Garden Network	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
El Cerrito Garden Club	Villa Mira Vista HOA
	West Contra Costa Unified School District

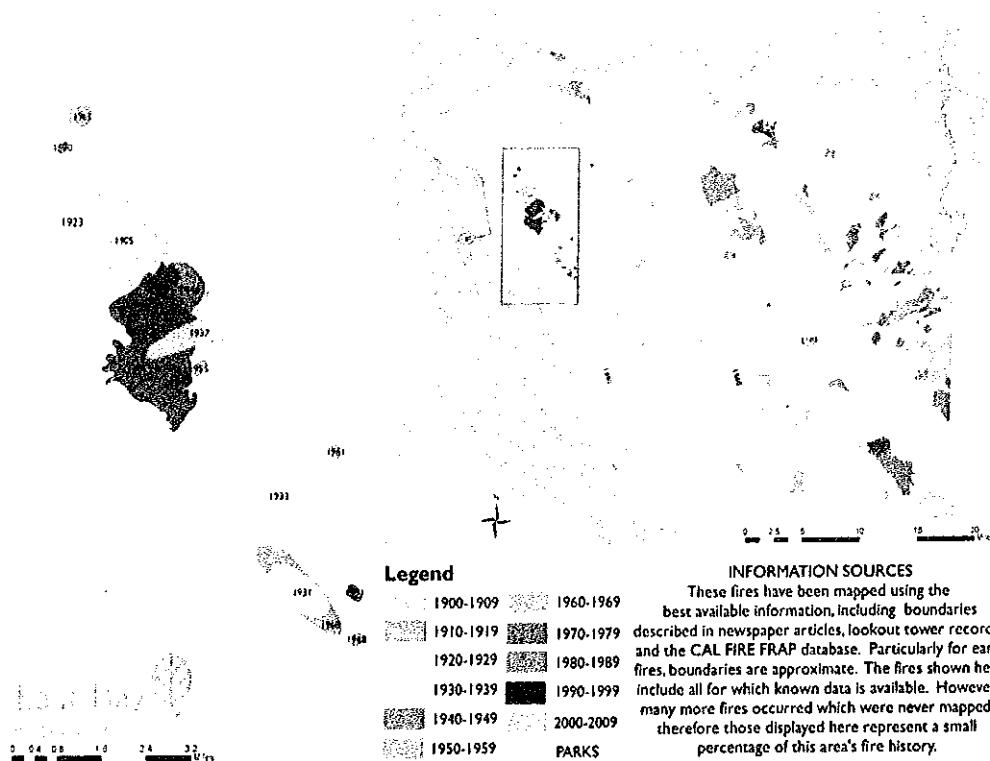
Wildfire Hazard and Risk in the Wildland Urban Interface

2.1 Wildfire Environment

Wildfires are a part of the natural ecosystem in the El Cerrito and Kensington area. The Mediterranean-like climate with no summer rains, the steep, wind-conductive topography, and fire adapted native vegetation set the stage for periodic burns. The fire environment is made more dangerous by the abundant hazards and risk associated with a large population and dense pattern of development. The urban side of the wildland-urban interface brings new hazards into the equation with introduced vegetation, structures constructed of flammable materials and many potential ignition sources.

Contra Costa County has a rich history of over 51 fires since the 1950s resulting in loss of lives, property and natural resources. The most recent was the 3,111-acre Morgan Fire that started on September 8, 2013 (in the eastern part of the County near Clayton). The 1991 "Tunnel Fire" took place seven miles south in the Berkeley and Oakland hills. The 1991 fire destroyed 2,900 structures, the largest recorded number in California history, and is the state's second deadliest fire with 25 fatalities.¹ Historically, more frequent wildfires of lesser intensity were common. Drought and human behaviors, particularly in the arenas of land-use and fire suppression, have

Fire History in the East Bay



Historically fires in Contra Costa County have clustered in 3 areas: East Bay Hills and along border with Alameda County; east areas of county around Mount Diablo and north areas of central county around Martinez.

¹ Source: http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=908. And <http://www.fire.ca.gov/SCU/> accessed 2/8/2017.

had a profound impact on the County's fuel complex and fire regime. This increases the possibility of catastrophic wildfire, especially as the hazards of vegetation, topography, structures and fire weather are present.

Weather

Chief among fire hazards is the area weather. Despite efforts to improve neighborhood safety and fire fighting capability, uncontrollable fire storms will occur under the extreme but periodic conditions of "Red Flag" weather days. The National Weather Service issues "Red Flag" warnings when weather elements such as low relative humidity and strong winds could lead to rapid increases in wildfire activity.

"Red Flag" weather can mean the occurrence of strong, hot, dry offshore winds (technically called "foehn" winds). These winds are known locally as "Diablo Winds" and they come from the north, northeast. They carry extremely dry air at high velocity. They quickly desiccate vegetation and other flammable materials and can push a fire down or up a slope with amazing speed. These can occur at any time of year, but are especially dangerous in the driest months of summer and fall. During these times, fighting a fire becomes far more difficult.

Fuel – Structures and Vegetation

Due to the number and density of homes built in the high fire hazard zone and changes in the natural fire-cycle, El Cerrito and Kensington have areas of highly flammable structures amongst an over-accumulation of flammable vegetation. This massive fuel load of homes and vegetation in the area's steep topography makes fires very difficult to contain. In addition, non-native and invasive weedy vegetation has replaced the more fire resistive and ecologically stable native species in many places, adding to the threat.

Years of drought and associated pests and disease have increased tree mortality. The Contra Costa County region has seen a decline in tree health due to drought, pine beetles and Sudden Oak Death. Ongoing tree mortality assessments will provide additional information on declining conditions.

Topography

The area's steep topography, with canyons and swales, influences fire behavior and in many instances intensifies fire effects. Westward facing slopes are more arid (due to long exposure to the afternoon sun) and thus more combustible. The narrow roads in the steep hillside areas of both El Cerrito and Kensington make ingress and egress difficult and delay fire fighter response time.

2.2 Wildland Urban Interface Risk & Hazard Assessments

The wildland urban interface (WUI) is defined as an area in which wildlands and communities are sufficiently close to each other to present a credible risk of fire spreading from one to the other. Nationally, the WUI has gained increasing importance as more Americans build homes in rural settings adjacent to public lands.

The housing density and geography of El Cerrito and Kensington are such that most of the developed areas not only border WUI areas, but also include conditions within the urbanized areas that can fuel wildfires. The two communities include locations considered "*Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones*" and are at significant risk for loss of life and property if a fire were to occur on a normal or extreme weather day. For the purposes of this plan, the CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity maps were used as a starting point to determine where significant fire hazards

exits both in the wildland and urban areas. Both El Cerrito and Kensington and the adjacent EBRPD parklands have been identified as at significant risk from wildfire.

2.2.1. Potential for Wildfire to Occur

Factor 1 – Risk of Wildfire Occurrence

Fire History Locations

Contra Costa County has a history of fire. The map “*Fire History in the East Bay*” shows many fires throughout the county over the past century. Three areas show clusters of fire:

- East Bay Hills – Richmond, El Cerrito Kensington and Alameda County boundary
- East areas of county around Mount Diablo, Walnut Creek, San Ramon
- North areas of central-county around Martinez.

Fire History Patterns, Climate Change Impact and Ignitions

There is limited detailed information on fires in the El Cerrito and Kensington area. However, a regional look at the 15 fires in the vicinity of the Caldecott Tunnel from 1923 – 1991 shows a common pattern of ignitions during critical Diablo Wind conditions in the Fall, occurring every 10 to 20 years. Similar conditions occur in the El Cerrito and Kensington area.

Climate change has the potential to affect multiple elements including fire behavior, ignitions, fire management and vegetation fuels. Hot dry spells may dry out fuels faster and increase disease and insect infestations resulting in higher fuel loads. Increased winds may result in more erratic fire behavior making fires harder to contain.

As a part of its fire management plan, EBMUD looked at causative agents for fires on its watershed from 1980-1997. Many ignitions were “unknown,” but known causes were primarily human and included arson, camping and picnic activities, power lines, fireworks, fuel reduction activities, smoking, children, automobiles and rekindles. Only 2 out of the 174 fires analyzed were caused by lighting. EBMUD used this information to help identify high fire risk areas including:

- All interface or intermix areas
- High use or recreational areas
- High travel transportation corridors with roadside grasslands.

EBRPD did a similar analysis of 1,900 fires over twelve years in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and reached similar conclusions. While there has been no specific fire history developed for the El Cerrito - Kensington area, stakeholders and fire personnel familiar with the communities’ fire history felt that these causes and patterns could be extrapolated to this area.

Fire Weather

Another factor that has been assessed is fire weather or periods of “Diablo winds” that bring low relative humidity and higher temperatures. Alameda and Contra Costa Counties have 11 remote automated weather stations (RAWS) that provide localized information on the weather. Many fire departments also take local weather readings to supplement these regional data. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association’s National Weather Service also provides “red flag warnings” and “Fire Weather Watch” of periods of high fire danger. www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/cafww/



Communities at Risk

In association with the development of the National Fire Plan, the Federal Register published a list of Communities at Risk in 2001.² Twenty-five communities in Contra Costa County were identified, including El Cerrito and Kensington. This list provided another confirmation of El Cerrito and Kensington as high priority areas for wildfire prevention.

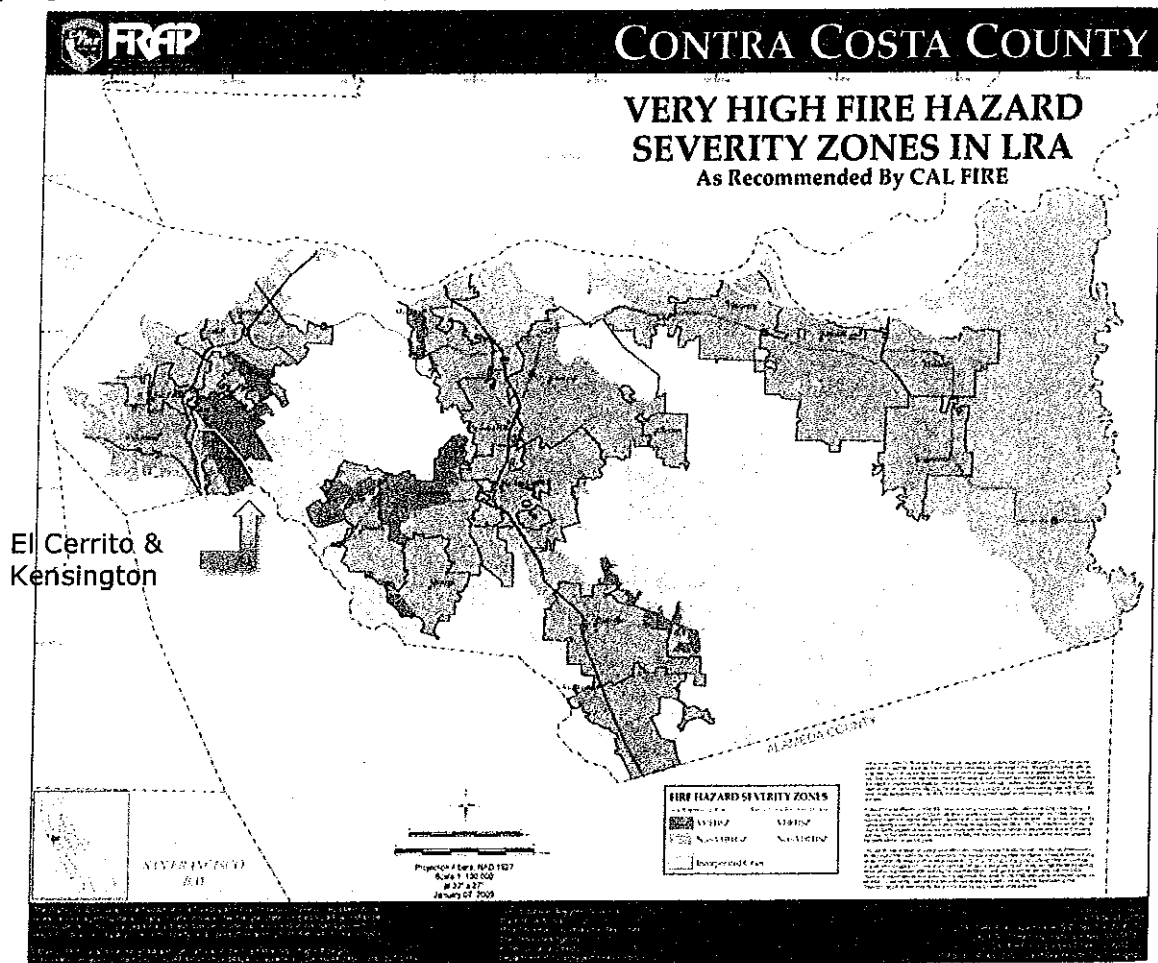
Factor 2 – Fuel Hazards

CAL FIRE Statewide Hazard Assessment Maps

The CAL FIRE statewide hazard assessment maps have served as the basis for much of the analysis in Contra Costa County. Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones for State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) are identified on these maps based on:

- Flame length modeled based on vegetation, topography and weather.
- Crown fire potential, ember production and ember movement
- Likelihood of burning based on fire history and other factors.³

The hills portion of El Cerrito (see detailed map in Appendix) and all of Kensington were identified as very high wildfire hazard severity zones, as well as the adjacent EBRPD lands.



² http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_planning_car?filter_text=Contra+Costa&filter_field=county_name&action=Search accessed 2/8/2017

³ Map from: http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_contracosta.php accessed 2/8/2017.

2.2.2. What to Protect - Values at Risk within the WUI

Factor 3 – Homes, businesses, critical infrastructure and other values to protect

Millions of people are exposed to the destructive forces of wildfire by virtue of living, working or visiting areas in the WUI. Much of what people value most highly – their lives, family, community, property, as well as cultural, economic and ecological interests is at risk of loss in an uncontrollable wildfire.

During planning meetings, area stakeholders identified homes, businesses, parklands and protected watersheds among values at risk. Regional roads are at risk, as are power and water supply facilities and substations, communications networks.

In addition to looking at fuel hazards, it is important to identify things that should be protected from the hazards. Some of the values at risk to protect include:

- Homes and businesses. The 2010 census shows a population of 23,549 with 10,142 housing units in the City of El Cerrito. Approximately 10,795 people live in 5,250 housing units located in the very high fire hazard severity zone. The unincorporated community of Kensington has a population of 5,077 and 2,199 households all of which are located within the very high fire hazard severity zone.⁴ Of particular concern are those who for whatever reason would not be able to leave during an evacuation without assistance. Total monetary value of structures in the area is estimated at more than \$4.39 billion.⁵
- Schools. El Cerrito includes four public elementary schools (including public pre-school), a middle school, a high school and a charter school, as well as five private schools. Kensington includes one public elementary school. In addition there are several churches and other private facilities that operate pre-schools and day care.
- Other public facilities. There are no hospitals or critical care facilities in El Cerrito or Kensington. An urgent care facility, the Shields Nursing Center and other private residential care facilities are located primarily in El Cerrito outside of the very high fire hazard severity zone. Other public facilities include the El Cerrito Community Center, El Cerrito Library, Kensington Community Center and Kensington branch of the Contra Costa Library.
- Infrastructure. The PG&E high voltage transmission lines that cross east of Kensington and through El Cerrito to the El Cerrito sub-station are part of the national electric grid, as well as providing power to the region. Similarly, the water facilities operated by EBMUD are critical to the region, as well as for local water delivery. Telecommunication networks and public emergency communication systems also serve the region. A network of local roads maintained by the City of El Cerrito and Contra Costa County provide both emergency access and evacuation routes for residents. Many of these roads are narrow and steep, reflecting the topography.
- Other things to consider. Contra Costa County is seismically active with nearby faults including the Hayward, San Andreas, and other related faults.⁶ Seismic activity could impact access, reliability of water supply and result in potential ignitions from gas or fuel lines following an earthquake. The steep hillsides are also geologically unstable, with areas of slides located throughout the hills.

⁴ Data from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0613882.html> accessed 2/8/17.

⁵ Source: Based on average house value of \$589,100

⁶ Source: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/qfaults/map/> Accessed 11/18/2015

While fire is a natural and critical ecosystem process in much of California's diverse terrestrial ecosystem, many of the existing "fire regimes" in the El Cerrito and Kensington area have been drastically altered from their natural variability. Introduced species, fire suppression, disease and insect infestations, and fire suppression are just a few of the reasons why some ecosystems now experience fires that are more intense and damaging. Severe environmental impacts from wildfires can include:

- Damaged fisheries, with increased water temperatures, sedimentation and changes in water quality
- Soil erosion from both wind and water erosion. Accelerated soil erosion can lead to landslides as well as threaten nearby aquatic habitats. Hot fires can also damage soil nutrients or make soil water repellent (hydrophobic).
- Disease and insect infestations as non-native plant species invade burned areas
- Damage to critical wildlife habitat.

Critical wildlife habitat

US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified critical habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake and Red Legged Frog in the East Bay Regional Park lands adjacent to El Cerrito and Kensington. Other federal listed species are identified in the "Best Management Practices Guidebook for Hazardous Fuels Treatments in Contra Costa County" and the *Vegetation Management Almanac for the East Bay Hills*.

Local watersheds, creeks and riparian areas

The City of El Cerrito and Contra Costa County have recognized the value of protecting their local watersheds, creeks and riparian areas and have local storm water management, stream protection ordinances and regulations to protect these resources.⁷ State regulatory agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFRWQCB), oversee protection of riparian areas, including along seasonal or ephemeral channels, and issue permits required for removal of riparian vegetation. Replanting or revegetation may be required in some areas when vegetation is removed to reduce wildfire hazards.

Significant recreation, scenic areas and areas of historical, economic or cultural value

El Cerrito and Kensington contain publically-owned open spaces with significant values related to recreation and scenic areas. The communities also contain areas of economic and cultural value both as documented historical and undocumented archeological sites.

2.2.3. Protection Capabilities

Factor 4 - Local Preparedness and Fire Fighting Capabilities

As identified in Section 1, local fire protection agencies leverage their resources through participation in emergency management systems and common incident command system. Local preparedness and firefighting capabilities include community preparedness and emergency personnel response. During fire incidents law enforcement, including the El Cerrito Police Department and the Contra Costa County Sheriff, are responsible for coordinating evacuation. Volunteer resources, such as local resident groups, both El Cerrito and Kensington CERT groups, ECHO, KARO and RACES, Contra Costa Medical Reserve Corps and Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff Volunteers, also play critical roles in both preparedness and during response to wildfires.

⁷ Source: <http://ca-elcerrito.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=141> accessed 2/8/17

In November 2011, the County Office of Emergency Services produced an Emergency Operations Plan for the Contra Costa Operational Area "for effective and economical allocation of resources for protection of people and property in time of an emergency."⁸ The plan establishes the emergency organization, assigns tasks, specifies policies and general procedures, and provides for the coordination of planning efforts of the various emergency staff and service elements utilizing the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS).

2.3 Strategies for Reducing Risk within the WUI

Wildfire is a natural process in the Contra Costa County ecosystem. The natural hazards of the fire environment – weather, climate, topography and fire adaptive vegetation – all are immutable. Attention to decreasing the human impacts and risk factors can reduce the incidence of catastrophic wildfire. The following potential strategies for reducing risk are organized to focus on each of the existing risk and hazard assessments.

1. Collaborative Partners

Identifying and working with collaborative partners (including friends and volunteer groups) lays the groundwork for other strategies to reduce the risk of fire. Collaborative efforts may include:

- Information, including sharing ideas and cross messaging to reach wider audiences.
- Education - Existing programs include: "Ember Awareness, "FIREWISE, "Ready, Set, Go", Smokey Bear, CERT, volunteers in prevention that can be customized for each community, neighborhood or special interest group.
- Collaborative planning on a local level with more detailed assessments and project development to reduce risk of fire occurrence. This could also include identifying friends and volunteer groups for project work and facilitating roles for residents.
- Sharing best practices related to wildfire prevention, hazardous fuel reduction, natural resource conservation and stewardship.
- Developing policy, such as for planting restrictions or removal of highly flammable plant species.

Potential collaborative partners identified during the planning process include: the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, CERT, California Office of Emergency Services, planning and building departments, El Cerrito City Council members, Board of Supervisors, Contra Costa Fire Chiefs Association, Master Gardeners, University of California Extension, Institute of Building and Home Safety, California Landscape Contractors Association, local media (such as the aboutkensington.com and El Cerrito Patch), Contra Costa County OES, non profit habitat restoration organizations (such as Friends of Five Creeks), California Native Plant Society, special interest groups (such as El Cerrito Trail Trekkers or Kensington Home Owners Association) and utilities including PG&E and EBMUD.

Electronic distribution allows for customization and distribution through existing partners networks. Communicating fire safety messages year-round, and identifying and facilitating roles for residents working with agencies could foster collaborative partnerships.

⁸ Source: <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7352>

2. Recommendations to address risk of ignitions

Target key causes of ignitions in areas with ignition history, high equipment use and people (arson or accidents) through:

- Ignition Prevention Education – A specific ignition prevention campaign targeting contractors and public works agencies may help reduce equipment-caused fires. Existing ignition campaigns include “One Less Spark,” fire department staff outreach, equipment rental operations and contractors (spark arrestors), mowing guidelines, drought related information. Develop ignition prevention education aimed at both residents and visitors (recreation or trail users).
- Enforcement – enforce restriction on certain activities: support consumer fireworks exclusions (including sky lanterns), fire investigations and working with law enforcement and defensible space inspections/ enforcement. Limit access or activities during periods of high fire danger (red flag warnings). Increase staffing levels and patrols on red flag days. Develop new policy and associated enforcement, such as for planting restrictions or removal of highly flammable plant species.
- Engineering – equipment safety, fuel reduction activities. This could include roadside clearance of vegetation or a juniper removal campaign.
- Areas of high tree mortality due to drought, disease or pest where there may be higher potential for ignition.

3. Recommendations to address fire weather

Improve communication of hazardous weather conditions (red flag weather) through:

- Awareness of hazard conditions and what to do/ not do – red flag program flags, fire danger signs (through community and in parks), education, shared responsibility of agencies and residents. National weather service (NOAA/ Monterey) and remote area weather stations (RAWS).
- Restrictions on specific uses, certain activities, specific operations or equipment (abatement work) during periods of high fire danger weather. Fire weather operations plans.
- Local media alerts during red flag weather. Additional partners can get the word out over a variety of communication systems (newsletters, Nixel, websites, Contra Costa County Warning System emergency alerts, etc.). Shared responsibility – patrols, community watch type activities.

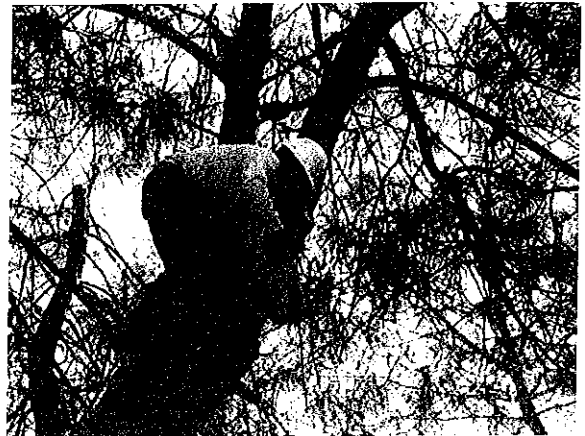
4. Recommendations to address community at risk hazards

- Monitor tree decline mortality due to drought, disease (e.g. Sudden Oak Death) or pest infestation (key areas include: Madera Open Space and “Motorcycle Hill”.)
- Develop new policy and associated enforcement mechanisms, such as for planting restrictions or removal of highly flammable plant species.
- Project planning and funding to deal with increase in tree mortality.
- Public education and exterior hazard abatement:
 - Reduce surrounding fuels and ignitability of existing homes and structures – from the house out.
 - Focus on dense vegetation directly adjacent to homes and homes themselves.
 - Weed abatement/ defensible space inspections and enforcement.

- Home ignition zone improvements (beyond weed abatement or fire code requirements).
- Reduce structure ignitability.
- Evacuation routes
- Special needs populations (who, where they are, and needs in event of emergency).

5. Recommendations to further support defensible space programs

- Talk to people about what to do. Prevention programs, communication and education. "How to do" training. Information on flammability of specific plants (e.g. juniper)
- Inspections, enforcement and abatement, including on vacant lots where no structures are present.
- Funding and incentives for private property owners. "Seed" funding for community projects.
- Share effective techniques. Balancing habitat needs and defensible space. Effective techniques to reduce noxious weed invasion after soil disturbing hazardous fuel reduction treatments.
- Chipping programs.
- Green waste pickup or other programs for disposal.
- Hazardous (dead) tree removal programs. Right tree right place program (existing PG&E program)
- Demonstration garden. Showcase successful treatments of private properties where habitat values, aesthetics and fuel reduction (defensible space) goals have been met.



6. Recommendations to support improving structure survivability

- Education regarding home ignition, WUI building standards and existing code requirements. Local building and remodeling standards reflective of the State adopted WUI Chapter 7A or better (recognizing these are minimum standards). Including: Class A roofs, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, street address numbers. Educational materials to address inside the home, external shell, ember hardening and non-ignition zone (fences, outdoor structures). Use a variety of outreach tools including DVD, website, flyers and presentations.
- Practical retrofit techniques and building materials for roofs, gutters, windows, siding, vents, decks, outbuildings, especially information regarding what can be done without major remodels.
- Sprinkler systems required for new homes or if more than 50% of home is remodeled.

7. Recommendations to support fuel management on public and large scale private lands

- Pre-fire hazardous fuel management program and plans.
- Integrating fire with scientifically based resource and vegetation management that protects and improves native habitat values. A lot of collaborative planning work has been done in the region that should be incorporated. Balance protection of biological

resources with hazardous fuel removal (e.g. bird nesting and 100' defensible space). Support for further research on post fire effects.

- Share project implementation resources (contractors, equipment, specifications), best management practices (BMP) and lessons learned. Use of goats, cattle, control burns, disk or mow fire containment lines, understory maintenance, etc. Including use of volunteers to reduce fuel loads. Identify stakeholders and customize information and delivery methods.
- Project and funding support, for both the individual large property owner and for homeowner associations with private open space (e.g., Villa Mira Vista and Wildwood).
- Access for firefighter and equipment.
- Enforcement for abatement on public lands.

9. Recommendations for protecting homes, businesses, other facilities & essential infrastructure at risk

- Identify infrastructure to protect: roads, power grid, water treatment facilities, communications and utilities. Support hazardous fuel reduction projects, such as those on watersheds, roadside clearances and power-line clearance.
- Identify network of roads for fire response and resident evacuation.
- Water for fire fighting, including public and private sources.
- Provide extra patrols during high fire (Red Flag) days.

10. Recommendations to support Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

- Develop local evacuation plans and educate residents on preparedness, including special needs communities and animal rescue and sheltering. Recognize parking on narrow roads further limits fire access and evacuation.
- Support local volunteers and community readiness. Participate in and enhance existing CERT/ Neighborhood Watch programs. Ready Set Go. FIREWISE.
- Continue to support fire department response improvements: expanded mutual aid, wildland fire training, equipment, etc. Coordination between agencies and land managers.
- Continue to support public notifications systems –community warning sirens, Nixel, etc.

Recommended Action Plan

3.1 Selection of Recommended Priorities

The El Cerrito Kensington Wildfire Action Plan was developed through collaboration of stakeholders and residents that attended work sessions, public presentations or commented on draft versions of this plan. Participants were invited to submit project ideas that provide protection and reduce risk. The following recommended priorities are based on this collaboration, as well as the Countywide CWPP, analysis and the recommended strategies for reducing the risk with the WUI detailed in Sections 1 and 2.

Each of the following topics outlines specific recommendations and associated actions. It is anticipated that additional opportunities for actions will be identified as the Fire Action Plan is implemented. Projects, workshops, demonstrations and education efforts will be recommended for implementation and funding based on the following attributes:

- Protects life, property and infrastructure in areas of El Cerrito and Kensington where risk of catastrophic wildfire is most severe.
- Reduces risk of fire spreading between private lands to public lands (regional parklands, open space, or watershed lands) or areas where significant natural or cultural resources are at risk.
- Seeks to create a detailed implementation plan for fire prevention or mitigation at the local level in an area identified as "at risk".
- Involves stakeholders at all levels, which is to say there is strong community support, as well as support from applicable agencies and landowners. Intensity of local support will be a significant factor when choosing projects.
- Demonstrates the capacity to continue to manage and maintain the project effectively, and/or supports ongoing, previously planned efforts.
- Projects that will improve firefighting response, wildfire control capabilities and residential evacuation plans and operational programs.
- Removal of invasive plants of known high flammability listed in a recognized source such Cal-IPC California Invasive Plant Inventory (publication 2006 or updated).

Many of the recommended actions will take long-term commitment over multiple years to address the complex hazards. Some actions have current funding, but additional funding and efforts are needed to continue to address the issue.

3.2 Information, Education and Collaborative Planning Priorities

Education is viewed as a force multiplier and stakeholders felt it should be a high priority. A key recommendation is working with potential partners to find common ground, share ideas and develop joint implementation of local projects. These partners may expand beyond the traditional agency partners to include volunteer groups who have interest in neighborhood or

nearby open spaces. They may also include organizations, such as the Friends of Five Creeks, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, California Native Plant Society or Contra Costa County Master Gardeners, offices of the mayor or elected officials, homeowner associations or local businesses. One such recommendation includes supporting fire prevention educational program for ignition prevention.

Priority Action: Fire Prevention Educational Program

Recommendation: Support year-round community efforts with education programs regarding wildfire safety and ignition prevention. These should identify inexpensive things a homeowner, contractors and others can do.

Implementation Actions:

- Identify various audiences (e.g. residents, contractors, special interest groups). Identify the needs of residents versus special interest or recreational users.
- Develop topics including:
 - How the home can ignite (e.g., the ignition chain of how a wildfire or adjacent house fire can be transmitted through the landscape or house to house).
 - Importance of neighborhood defensible space, especially critical on dead end streets or where homes are close together. This information should be made available before inspections.
 - General awareness (e.g. wildfire season, red flag days)
 - Demonstration garden (see discussion in Section 4 Fuel Reduction treatments)
 - How to identify, develop and fund a hazardous fuel reduction project
- Delivery methods: Direct mail, information on existing electronic/ social networks (county, city and community list serves), open houses at Fire Stations and other community events.
- Encourage resident participation

Lead and Partners: Diablo Fire Safe Council and partner agencies.

Time frame: Short-term timeframe. On-going 9 month or year round program.

Estimated Funding Need: \$ to development/ distribution of materials and evaluate additional needs.

3.3 Enhanced Suppression Capability and Emergency Preparedness Priorities

Each year wildfires reinforce the importance of local emergency preparedness and evacuation plans. The emergency service agencies (County Office of Emergency Services, El Cerrito Police, County Sheriff, and the various fire departments) are interconnected through mutual aid agreements and common training of the Incident Command System and National Incident Management System. To expand this preparedness to a local and neighborhood level, there are Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT) programs offered through the El Cerrito and Kensington Fire Departments. One priority recommendation focuses on assisting in the development of local evacuation plans. Another opportunity is to collaborate with updates to local hazard mitigation plan or general plan safety elements.

Priority Action: Evacuation Planning and Preparedness

Recommendation: Collaborate with partners (CERT, Neighborhood Watch, Red Cross) to assist community groups in developing neighborhood evacuation plans so residents know what to do in the event of a wildfire.

Implementation Actions:

- Tie to general education of wildland urban interface issues, red flag warnings, "Ready Set Go!". Community warning systems such as Weather Radio, Nixel and Community Warning System.
- Focus on community groups and block level.
- Explain community evacuation procedures and develop appropriate expectations about access/ egress, parking, evacuation routes, role of police and sheriff, notifications etc.
- Identify essential supplies to maintain (Go Pack).
- Identify special populations or needs at the block level.
- Identify primary and secondary evacuation routes. Reinforce understanding that law enforcement is in charge of the evacuation.
- Pre-designate suitable evacuation shelters.
- Physical improvements to the routes as needed (parking restrictions, vegetation clearance, roadside maintenance, signage etc.)

Lead and Partners: Coordinate with other groups that address evacuation trainings such as CERT and Red Cross, as well as outreach to home owner association, fire department and police/sheriff departments.

Time frame: Short to identify, medium to long term to implement improvements.

Estimated Funding Need: \$ for maps and brochures; \$\$\$\$ for physical improvements.

Prioritizing Hazardous Fuel Reduction Treatments

4.1 Hazardous Fuel Management

Hazardous fuel management, ideally a subset of sound vegetation and ecosystem management, is the practice of removing or modifying vegetation in order to reduce wildfire ignitions, rate of spread and intensity. Fuel management requirements depend on the vegetation type, location, condition and configuration. Given the dynamic nature of the fuels in El Cerrito and Kensington, a single treatment type or prescription is not effective. Follow up is often needed to avoid encroachment by weedy, non-native invasive species. Rigorous oversight, active management and an adaptive approach are required to achieve fuel management goals with a positive by-product of ecosystem improvement.

Generally five fuel management methods are available and used within the WUI:

- Manual (hand labor such as pulling or cutting)
- Mechanical treatment (equipment used for mowing, selective cutting of trees, masticating or crushing)
- Prescribed herbivory (targeted grazing by sheep, goats or cattle)
- Chemical treatment
- Prescribed fire

Specific fuel management treatment goals and methods are addressed more fully in the *Best Management Practices Guidebook for Hazardous Fuel Treatments in Contra Costa County*. These best management practice guidebooks will continue to be refined based on environmental compliance documents, adaptive management practices and other lessons learned by the various stakeholders.

The sustainability of fuel management is an on-going challenge at all landscape scales – from the single residence, neighborhoods, public open space, watershed and parklands. Existing residential areas typically depend upon private property owners and their fire agency's fire prevention programs to reduce fuel loads. El Cerrito and Kensington both have the ability to enforce compliance with local fire codes. However, they are limited by the extent of local codes. Any new or in-fill residential development needs not only a plan for fire hazard reduction, but also funding mechanisms for long term vegetation management of any commonly held open space. Funding must include not only initial treatments, but also on-going maintenance on an annual or multi-year cycle.

4.2 Fuel Reduction Treatments – Geographically Based Projects

Public agencies, private owners, and fire districts establish hazardous fuel reduction treatment priorities on a regular basis as a part of their long-range planning or annual budgeting procedures. Some of the public land managers have detailed plans that incorporate fuel reduction treatments. Regionally such plans have not only identified geographically based projects, but also have developed best management practices and mitigation measures that should be incorporated into projects to reduce the impact of fuel

reduction treatments on the environment (see on-line Appendix for further resources and references).

Typically, fuel treatment is done around structures, by roadways and in areas of extreme fire behavior. Treatments addressed in the *Best Management Practices Guidebook for Hazardous Fuel Treatments in Contra Costa County*¹ are organized by zone as follows:

- From the Home: 0-30', 30-100'
- Critical Infrastructure: 0-300'
- Emergency Access Roads: 0-30', 30-100'
- Community Protection: 100-300'
- Community Wildland Interface: 1.5-mile area around a community unless otherwise designated.

Regionally, stakeholders in Contra Costa County have further refined this list with the following areas as appropriate for fuel management, which is supported in this El Cerrito Kensington Fire Action Plan:

- Areas within 200 feet of homes in the wildland urban interface (WUI) with excessively flammable vegetation that would produce greater than 8-foot flame lengths.
- Areas within 200 feet of high-value or irreplaceable public facilities in the WUI with excessively flammable vegetation that would produce greater than 8-foot flame lengths.
- Areas within 30 foot to 100 foot of private residences in the WUI with excessively flammable vegetation that would exceed state or local defensible space codes.
- Areas with excessively flammable vegetation due to extreme amounts of litter or ground fuel levels. These may be areas where ground fuels exceed six-inches deep with occasional jackpots of fine material up to three-inch diameter. It may be with greater than two to six tons per acre with ribbon bark and understory fuel ladders in identified high risk forest like eucalyptus or Monterey pine that are subject to torching and crown fires with potential high ember flight rates into residential areas.
- Areas critical to strategic fire fighting operations in the event of a wildfire with excessively flammable vegetation.
- Areas with excessively flammable vegetation within 30 feet of wildfire evacuation and fire fighting access along paved roads and strategic fire trails.
- Areas of invasive plants that will increase the flammability of adjacent natural plant communities or displace more fire safe and fire adapted native species.

The list of current geographically based priority projects follows at the end of this section. An intended outcome of the Fire Action Plan is for this list to be updated annually to ensure that efforts are coordinated whenever possible. Past hazardous fuel reduction projects have included working on public lands, with special interest groups and small groups of homeowners on private property including:



¹ *Best Management Practices Guidebook for Hazardous Fuel Treatments in Contra Costa County* (page 7). Available at www.diablofiresafe.org/publications.html#BMP

El Cerrito	Kensington
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balra Drive • Bates Avenue • Camp Herms • Contra Costa Dr/ King St • Dorothy Rosenberg Park/ Shevlin Drive • Hillside Natural Area • Mira Vista Golf Club • Villa Mira Vista HOA • Prospect Sierra School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge Avenue • Carmelite Monastery • EBRPD - Wildcat Canyon Regional Park with adjacent homeowners on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kensington Court ○ Purdue Meadow ○ Lake Drive ○ Los Altos Drive ○ Beloit Ave ○ Canon Drive • Edgecroft Road • Highland Boulevard • Kensington Community Center • Kensington Elementary School • Kingston Road

When funding is available, fuel reduction treatment projects with the following attributes should be given the highest priority:

- Project reduces hazardous fuels that, if left untreated, would generate high intensity burning adjacent to structures or communities at risk, or produce large quantities of airborne burning embers that would carry into communities or other important resources.
- Project reduces hazards along strategic emergency access and evacuation routes, or other critical infrastructure.
- Project includes vegetation modification treatments that will reduce the threat of unacceptable impacts of high intensity fire to high value ecosystems, sensitive watersheds and high concentration recreation areas, including regional parklands or state lands. Projects to include strategies and funding for on-going maintenance, especially follow-up management of non-native invasive species that could create hazardous fire conditions.

4.3 Fuel Reduction Treatments – Related Priorities

In addition to geographically based projects, the stakeholders reinforced the need for a link between education and fuel reduction projects. Wildfire safety requires a partnership between homeowners and agencies, as well as an understanding of what we are trying to achieve if we implement the wildfire safety program or fuel reduction projects.

Priority Action: Demonstration Garden + Other Links Between Education and Projects

Recommendation: Showcase successful treatments of private and public properties for reducing potential for ignition and spread of wildfire.

Implementation Actions:

- Collaborate with others who have shared interest in community
- Look at successful examples in other communities where multiple goals have been met along with fuel reduction (defensible space) including: beautification, habitat values, creek restoration, removal of invasive species, sustainability, etc.
- Explore options for demonstration gardens: developing on public land (such as Kensington Community Center or other locations), in median strips and other small public spaces, showcasing private properties through contests, campaigns (juniper removal), adopt a spot.
- Select initial projects/ programs and outreach methods. Explain role of project – how it works to calm a fire (e.g., role of defensible space and fuel reduction, why some plants are more hazardous than others, what to remove and what to plant).
- Widely disseminate information and gather additional support. Show what community will look like if fire safety projects are implemented. Provide tours, open houses, guides, or pamphlets.
- Provide one-on-one services to talk to individual homeowners about actions they need to take in their homes.
- Develop or disseminate existing companion materials on topics such as: ember awareness, plant flammability, how invasive plants increase fuel loads. Link to websites such as <http://www.diablofiresafe.org/tolerance.html> on plant performance.

Lead and Partners: Not yet identified

Time frame: On-going

Estimated Funding Need: \$ or \$\$\$\$

4.4 Environmental Review and Permitting

The El Cerrito Kensington Action Plan, an Appendix to the Contra Costa Countywide CWPP, is an advisory document. The Plan was prepared by the Diablo Fire Safe Council in collaboration with public agencies and other interested stakeholders pursuant to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The committee was composed of stakeholders (or their representatives) living in at-risk communities, and the contents of this CWPP are opinions of these stakeholders following the procedures outlined in The Wildland Fire Leadership Council's handbook, *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, A Handbook for Wildland Urban Interface Communities.* More specifically, landscape and fire science

discussions, WUI designation, priority of at-risk communities, regulatory interpretation and other discussions set forth in this Plan are findings and recommendations by these stakeholders to help protect their communities from wildfires. Because this Plan is an advisory document, the Plan does not legally commit any public agency to a specific course of action or conduct and thus, is not a project subject to CEQA or NEPA. At least twelve counties in California have signed CWPPs without considering the CWPP as a project subject to CEQA.

However, if and once funding is received from local, state or federal agencies and prior to work performed, or prior to issuance of discretionary permits or other entitlements by any public agencies to which CEQA or NEPA may apply, the lead agency must consider whether the proposed activity is a project under CEQA or NEPA. If the lead agency makes a determination that the proposed activity is a project subject to CEQA or NEPA, the lead agency must perform environmental review.

In addition to NEPA or CEQA, it is recognized there are a number of permits that may need to be obtained prior to fuel reduction work including:

- US Army Corps of Engineers: Clean Water Act Section 404 or Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 Nationwide Permit or Individual Permit
- US Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service: Section 7 or Section 10 Consultation
- Regional Water Quality Control Board: Clean Water Act Section 401 or Porter Cologne Act 401 Certification or Water Discharge Requirement
- California Department of Fish and Game: Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement; Fish and Game Code and California Endangered Species Act Streambed Alteration Agreement, CESA 2081 or CESA 2080.1 Permit

Other activities may not require specific agency permits, but may require additional review or specific mitigation measures to comply with:

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- National Historic Preservation Act (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Section 106 review; State Historic Preservation Office)
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District Regulation 5. Open Burning.
- County Agricultural Commission, CAL EPA and Federal EPA on use of herbicides
- Local tree ordinances
- Local stream protection regulations
- Local noise ordinances
- City or county road encroachment

2017 Geographically Based Priority Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects and Prevention Strategies

Agency or Group	Project or Strategy	Status
CAL FIRE Santa Clara Ranger Unit	Technical support and personnel to allied agencies who are conducting projects in the SRA and LRA of Contra Costa County. See Unit Plan Santa Clara County.	Ongoing Funded
	Coordination of Fire Crews for project work	Ongoing Funded (limited availability)
	Grant programs for SRA area (part of Kensington)	2016-2017 funding
City of El Cerrito- Public Works Department	Continue to implement vegetation management programs in City owned Hillside Natural Area, parks and rights-of-way	Funding Needed
	Continue to coordinate vegetation management programs with volunteers	Ongoing Funded
Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC)	Defensible Space Program - seed fund for community projects + chipping	Ongoing Funded
	Partner with homeowners, HOAs and other groups to fund and manage hazardous fuel reduction activities	Ongoing Funded
	Right of Entry with East Bay Regional Park District (Kensington Fuel Reduction Group)	2016-2017 funding
East Bay Regional Park District	Project implementation in East Bay Hills. See Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan.	Ongoing Funded
	Right of Entry with Diablo Fire Safe Council (Kensington Fuel Reduction Group)	Ongoing Funded
	High fire danger information - use restrictions	
	Integrated Pest Management Program (some treatments also include fuel reduction)	Ongoing Funded
El Cerrito Fire Department/ Kensington Fire Protection District	Continue to implement vegetation management programs. Visually inspect every property (public and private) within El Cerrito and Kensington.	Ongoing Funded
	Notify property owners when vegetation management standards are not being met, and achieve compliance, with 100% voluntary compliance as a goal	Ongoing Funded
	Hire private contractors and CDC crews to maintain and enhance defensible space areas on public land and between natural areas and neighborhoods as funding allows	Additional funding needed
	Continue to dialog and collaborate with East Bay Regional Parks to enhance area fire safety	Ongoing Funded
El Cerrito Trail Trekkers	Continue to implement vegetation management programs with volunteers in Hillside Natural Area and other public owned right of ways (paths)	Volunteer
El Cerrito Tree Committee and Green Team	Continue to implement vegetation management programs with volunteers	Volunteer
Friends of Five Creeks	Continue to implement vegetation management programs with volunteers in Hillside Natural Area and Cerrito Creek	Volunteer

Agency or Group	Project or Strategy	Status
Kensington Community Center Volunteers	Continue to implement fuel reduction projects around Kensington Community Center	Volunteer
Kensington Fuel Reduction Groups	Continue to implement fuel reduction projects under Right of Entry with EBRPD and DFSC	Volunteer
Kensington Public Safety Committee	Continue to implement vegetation management programs with volunteers in Kensington	Volunteer
Pacific Gas and Electric	High voltage and distribution lines vegetation maintenance	Ongoing Funded
	Implement right tree right place	Ongoing Funded

Prioritizing Treatment of Structure Ignitability

5.1 Structure Ignitability

The presence of structures within the WUI exposes both the natural and developed environments to increased risk of destruction by wildfire. In areas where the accumulation of flammable vegetation coexists with residential development, an ignition can lead to catastrophic fire. Mitigation of hazards that contribute to ignitability can reduce the potential of fire loss.

Adoption and enforcement of fire and building codes is an essential part of managing the risk in the WUI. The California State Fire Marshal's Office developed state of the art building standards known as "Chapter 7A" effective January 1, 2008 for use on new building construction within Very High Hazard Severity Zones. Other pertinent codes are included in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24, such as the California Building Code (CBC) Part 2, California Residential Code (CRC) Part 2.5, California Fire Code (CFC) Part 9, California Reference Standards Code (CRSC) Part 12. More detail about these codes, code compliance policies and accepted products can be found at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/wildfireprotectionbuildingconstruction>.

The El Cerrito and Contra Costa County (Kensington) Building Codes meet the Chapter 7A standard for the high fire hazard areas. However these codes apply for new construction but not for remodeling of existing homes.

For communities such as El Cerrito and Kensington that have limited room for new development, it is critical to incorporate fire safety in the general plan safety elements for the City of El Cerrito and for Contra Costa County. In 2012, Senate Bill 1241 was signed into law creating new wildfire safety requirements related to land use planning and updates to the Housing and Safety Elements. The Board of Forestry and CAL FIRE will now sign off on these plans for compliance.

No fire department can be expected to prevent all home losses in a WUI setting. The potential for a wildfire to outpace suppression efforts means that all homeowners in WUI areas must accept a high degree of risk, as well as responsibility.

5.2 Key Ignition Resistance Factors

The key to ignition resistance is the design of the structure, the materials used in its construction and the presence of defensible space. Research points to basic factors that affect the risk of a structure burning in a wildfire. A weakness in any of these areas can lead to a similar result – a destroyed or severely damaged home or building. The following information is adapted from several sources including the Insurance Institute for Building and Home Safety. Additional information can be found at their website <https://disastersafety.org/ibhs-risks-wildfire/>

Flammability of the Roof

Research shows that homes with a non-combustible roof and defensible space of at least 30 to 60 feet around the structure have an 85-95% chance of survival in a wildfire.¹ At a minimum, a home structure should have a Class A-rated, fire-resistant roof cover or assembly, and preferably one that is self-extinguishing once a falling ember burns out. Self-extinguishing means that the firebrand will not burn through to the roof deck and flames will not spread to other parts of the roof. Without a fire-resistant roof, other approaches toward mitigation will fall short of protecting the home.

Roof shape also plays an important role. If the roof has a lot of ridges and valleys or roof segments that intersect with vertical walls your house is more vulnerable to wildfire. Even a Class-A roof is more vulnerable because vegetative debris and wind-blown embers readily accumulate at these intersections and can expose combustible siding, vents or windows as well as the roof to fire.

Wind-blown debris and overhanging trees can lead to gutters full of leaves and needles on your roof and gutter. Research has shown that a home with a gutter full of leaves has enough fuel to ignite a roof, especially if there is a path for the fire to reach any exposed flammable surfaces such as the edges of roof structure or through vents. Keeping gutters clean of debris is especially important if you have a multi-story building or dormer windows where exterior siding would be exposed to flames from debris in gutters.

Structure Openings – Vents, Doors and Windows

Many post-fire surveys of damaged buildings have shown that the attic/roof and foundation vents are key entry points for embers and flames. Areas where there are direct pathways to the attic, house or crawl space provide an easy entry point. This can include vents, soffits or windows prone to breaking when exposed to wildfire conditions (usually unprotected, single pane windows). Window fans, pet doors, and fireplaces chimneys can allow firebrands to enter if left open or unscreened.

Recent fires have shown that screened vents alone may fail to keep embers out of attics or other spaces. Pre-cut fire resistive covers are one solution. New technology combines several features that increase the effectiveness of preventing embers from entering these flammable spaces; however, maintenance issues need to be evaluated when these products are considered.

Testing has shown that single pane windows are highly vulnerable to breaking when exposed to wildfire conditions. Larger windows are more vulnerable to breaking than smaller windows. Some glass will break after only 1 to 3 minutes exposure to intense heat allowing flames and embers to get inside and further ignite furnishings. Double pane windows with tempered glass for the outside pane can effectively increase the ability to survive a wildfire as well as a long-term solution for energy conservation within the home.

Siding

Siding can be vulnerable for several reasons. If ignited, combustible siding can provide a path for flames to reach other vulnerable components such as windows or eaves. Second, a horizontal or vertical joint in the siding (or at the top or bottom of the material) can provide access for embers or flames into the house. Some materials, such as vinyl siding, will deform and fall off the wall at relatively low heat or flame exposure. If this happens, protection of the structure will depend on the underlying sheathing in the wall assembly.

¹ Foote, Ethan. "Wildland-Urban Interface Ignition Resistant Building Construction Recommendations." Community Wildfire Protection Plan Workshops, California Fire Alliance and California Fire Safe Council. August 2004.

Walls need to resist heat and flames, as well as embers. Non-combustible materials like three-coat stucco, fiber cement, brick and tile resist flames, but don't always resist heat and embers. Therefore, incorporating sheet-rock or other non-combustible sheathing material into the wall assembly underneath the exterior material will improve performance. Regardless of wall material choice, all gaps at the top or bottom edges, or at lap joints must be sealed or caulked to reduce the potential for ember intrusion. Embers can also accumulate at the foundation if the lower edges of the siding material is left unsealed. The more complicated the lap joint, such as tongue-and-groove or shiplap, the better the resistance from flame or embers. Attention to construction detail, such as use of metal flashing where fences or decks attached to walls can prevent accumulation of debris and slow ignition.

Overhanging Structures

Eaves, alcoves, entry ways, patio covers, decks, porches, and exterior stairways all have the potential to "trap" heat under them or create areas where burning embers can accumulate. Openings or gaps in blocking also result in areas where wind-blown embers can become lodged and ignite debris or wood.

Decking

Decks, patios and porches can become a pathway for fire into a home. Most are attached to a home and adjacent to doors, windows, sliding glass doors or other openings and combustible siding. Materials used to build the deck, the furniture or other items on top of the deck, as well as the items stored beneath them, all can increase the ease of structure ignition. Decks and porches can be particularly vulnerable when the home is sited on a slope or surrounded by vegetation where flame lengths can reach more than 30 feet, exposing even elevated decks.

The combustibility of wood deck boards is common knowledge; however, the performance of plastic composite decking products is less well known. Some manufacturers are incorporating fire retardant chemicals into these products. Information can be found at the California State Fire Marshal Wildfire Protection Building Construction website osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/wildfireprotectionbuildingconstruction. Specific products can be searched at the building materials listing at osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest. In general, large structural members will resist ignition better than small wood boards.

Fuel Hazards

Any fuel source that will bring flames close the structure can be a hazard. Examples of fuel hazards include:

- Flammable plants close to a wall
- Dead foliage that builds up underneath succulents or other normally fire-resistant plants
- Certain types of mulch and
- A combustible fence located close enough to allow flames to contact the overhanging roof above.

Fuel sources within the "defensible space" area that support a high intensity spot fire are especially problematic. These include: any trees that can quickly become a fire torch (such as an untrimmed palm tree) a wooden trellis made of small lumber sizes, playground equipment made with wood pieces, or a pile of firewood on the ground or in a wheelbarrow.

Access to the property

If firefighters and their equipment cannot gain access to the property and a water source, there is little chance they can protect the home. Access also affects the ability of the homeowner to evacuate the site should the need arise. In some areas these narrow roads can become constricted with on-street parking, temporary lane closures, encroachment into the road right of way by construction or by overgrown roadside vegetation. The communities served by only one road are at increased risk.

Surrounding topography and location of structures

Adjacent steep slopes and topographic features, such as natural chimneys or chutes, can intensify fire behavior. Structures located mid-slope or at the top of a steep slope are more likely to be damaged. A steeper slope will result in a faster moving fire, with longer flame lengths. A home with little setback from the slope will need to be more aggressive with vegetation treatment and maintenance.

Weather and “Red Flag” Conditions

Strong winds blowing a fire toward a house will have the same effect as being located on a slope. The fire will move faster and burn more intensely with taller flame lengths, blowing embers in front of the fire during periods of high winds. These high winds are often accompanied with an increase in temperature and decrease in relative humidity creating “Red Flag” conditions that further dry vegetation and wood building materials. Local topography often funnels wind and multiplies regional weather patterns.

5.3 Improving Structure Survivability within the WUI

Protecting structures exposed to wildfires is not a simple matter. Structures can ignite due to direct exposure to flames, from radiated heat or from embers. All three sources must be addressed in order to improve the survivability of structures within the WUI. It is recommended that the following measures be taken:

1. Reduce the amount of heat the structure will be exposed to through managing vegetation, creating defensible space and construction design.
2. Limit the time the structure is exposed to heat through vegetation management. Establishing a low fuel “home ignition zone” immediately adjacent to structures and creating “defensible space” in the first 30 - 100 feet from the house is critical.
3. Use fire resistant building materials and construction methods.
4. Remove combustible materials stored near structures.

Creating an effective defensible space around the structure and maintaining a fire safe landscape are critical to minimizing the threat of ignition. The homes in El Cerrito and Kensington are subject to regulations that require compliance with defensible space standards.

The selection of a building’s site and materials has direct relationship to its survivability. New structures need to be located to reduce their exposure to the most intense part of a wildfire that might sweep across the site. There also are many noncombustible and fire resistive materials and treatments available to better protect structures and inhibit fire spread. However, these have limited application to El Cerrito and Kensington since there is little new construction in these communities.

5.4 Retrofitting an Existing Structure for Survivability

The areas at highest risk from wildfire in El Cerrito and Kensington are largely built out. In these communities new construction will occur as infill between existing homes, so the new building codes offer limited opportunities to increase structure survivability. In these areas, identifying opportunities to retrofit existing homes and businesses is key to reducing losses due to wildfire. Outreach and education were again identified as priorities, as the new building codes for ignition resistant construction are not required for remodeling of existing structures. Funding assistance for retrofit of existing structures has been non-existent in the past. In 2011, FEMA provided two grants to assist with wood shake roof replacement (Lake Tahoe Basin FEMA shake roof program and San Bernardino Mountains FEMA wood shake roof replacement assistance).

Priority Action: Education on Home Ignitions and Training on Structure Retrofit

Recommendation: Education on home ignitions and training related to retrofit of existing homes and structures to improve their survivability. Identify what can be done without major remodel. Evaluate new technologies, materials and products that are available for retrofit and the pros and cons.

Implementation Actions:

- Find funding for education and training program on ignition resistance
- Develop an educational booklet of simple things homeowners can do to make their home ignition resistant
- Explore dissemination and delivery methods, including building permit counters.

Lead and Partners: No lead identified. Institute for Building and Home Safety has information and research. State Fire Marshal's Office has materials and product information related to Code 7A.

Time frame: On-going

Estimated Funding Need: \$\$ for training and materials.

The Insurance Institute for Building and Home Safety (IBHS) continues to sponsor building safety research that leads to real-world solutions. They have identified key areas at risk and offer retrofit ideas. The following table has been adapted from IBHS Wildfire Home Assessment and Checklist: see disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/wildfire-checklist_IBHS.pdf for additional detailed information. The information has been generalized for planning purposes. Consult building professionals and local building departments for more detail related to your structure.

Retrofitting Existing Structures to Increase Wildfire Survivability

<i>Survivability Threat</i>	<i>Retrofit</i>	<i>Relative Cost/ Ease</i>
Roof – the most vulnerable part of your home		
Combustible roof.	Professional roof inspection to determine if covering and assembly are not “Class A.” Need to remove old roofs.	\$\$\$\$ Contractor
Gaps at edges or ridges or other openings in tile (clay) or metal roof	Install bird stops in gaps at edges or ridges. Plug any roof openings that are not functioning as vents	\$\$-\$ Contractor or Experienced DIY
Combustible siding where lower level roof (first floor) meets upper wall or upper level roof (second floor)	Replace siding with more fire resistant material and underlayment	\$\$-\$\$\$\$ Contractor or Experienced DIY
Vegetative debris accumulated on roof and gutters	Routinely remove from roof. For complex steep, roofs may consider hiring professional.	Free - \$ Agile homeowner
Vents – vulnerable to wind-blown embers and flames		
Unscreened or unprotected vents (in foundations, crawl spaces, wall, dryer vents or gable end vents)	Attach screens (1/8” opening) or prepare solid covers to install when a wildfire is approaching. Use caution when installing or removing covers on upper story vents.	\$ Agile homeowner
Planning to replace vents	Several types of new vent covers on market designed to reduce risk of wind-blown embers. See http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/wildfireprotectionbuildingconstruction	\$\$ Experienced DIY
Gutters – fuel for falling embers could lead to fire in attic		
Vegetative debris accumulated in gutters	Clean gutters on regular gutters. For complex steep, roofs may consider hiring professional.	Free - \$ Agile homeowner
Tired of cleaning gutters	Gutter covers help manage debris build up. Can result in accumulation of debris on roof behind gutter – so some maintenance may still be required.	\$\$
Open Eaves or Projections – vulnerable to flame or embers could lead to fire in attic		
Open eave construction or visible gaps between blocking and rafter tails.	Plug openings with durable caulk or install non-combustible covering over blocking to eliminate openings. Alternatively box in eaves. This method may require vents to remove excess moisture.	\$\$-\$\$\$ Contractor or Experienced DIY
Combustible soffit material or materials used to box in eaves (such as wood boards, untreated plywood).	Replace with non-combustible material such as fiber cement product or exterior fire retardant treated plywood. Vinyl soffit material not recommended as it will deform and sag causing gaps.	\$\$-\$\$\$\$ Contractor or Experienced DIY

Retrofitting Existing Structures to Increase Wildfire Survivability

<i>Survivability Threat</i>	<i>Retrofit</i>	<i>Relative Cost/ Ease</i>
Windows – open windows are most vulnerable. The vulnerable part of a closed window is the glass.		
Single pane windows	Install dual pane windows. Preferred are multi- pane, insulated glass with added benefit of greater energy conservation Multi-pane (double or triple), tempered glass is 4 times more resistant to breaking in wildfire. Cost increases are relative to the opening size.	\$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$ Contractor
No window coverings to protect from glass breakage	Screens, shutters or pre-made covers will protect window from embers, debris and radiant heat exposure. Covers would be installed prior to evacuation. Least expensive alternative is ½ plywood but need to clear area of combustible material that could ignite plywood.	\$-\$\$ Contractor or Experienced DIY
Dome type skylights vulnerable to breakage	Replace with flat, tempered glass skylight. Remove vegetation and accumulated debris next to and around skylight	\$-\$\$ Contractor or Experienced DIY
Siding – fire from ignited siding can spread into stud cavity and up wall into eave, soffit or attic as well as expose window to flames		
Combustible siding	Re-siding is expensive but can be worthwhile if building is 15 feet or closer to adjacent properties or if inadequate defensible space. Replace with non-combustible siding so vertical flame spread will not be a problem unless you have other combustible materials of highly flammable plants adjacent to wall. Siding products and assemblies that are better able to resist penetration of flames into stud cavity can be found at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/wildfireprotectionbuildingconstruction	\$\$\$\$ Contractor
Gaps in joints of siding panels or simple laps joint or plain bevel joint	Panel products have fewer lap joints and can be considered less vulnerable. Wood siding shingles and plain bevel lap joints are most vulnerable.	\$\$\$\$ Contractor
Foundations – post and beam style foundation can result in vulnerable crawl spaces		
Open crawl space and post and beam style foundations	Enclose foundation area with non-combustible skirting material. Be sure to address moisture management issues through drainage and ventilation. Remove combustible materials stored in the crawl space or under the building.	\$-\$\$\$ Contractor or Experienced DIY

Retrofitting Existing Structures to Increase Wildfire Survivability

<i>Survivability Threat</i>	<i>Retrofit</i>	<i>Relative Cost/ Ease</i>
Decks can lead a wildfire directly into you home		
Deck boards of combustible material	Replace deck boards with fire or ignition resistant material. Learn more about choosing wildfire-resistant decking at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/wildfireprotectionbuildingconstruction	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ Contractor or Experienced DIY
Combustible materials stored under or on top of deck	Move material to an enclosed area away from structure. If you choose to enclose underside of deck be sure to address moisture management issues through drainage and ventilation	Free-\$\$ Experienced DIY
Enclose area below deck to reduce accumulation of wind blown debris or embers	Use solid non-flammable material (fiber cement product or exterior fire retardant treated plywood; not lattice to enclose area below decks. Be sure to address moisture management issues through drainage and ventilation	\$\$-\$\$ Experienced DIY
Garages can lead a wildfire directly to combustible materials that can threaten you home		
Garage doors can provide embers access to combustible materials	Install weather seal at the perimeter of garage doors to reduce ember penetration.	\$\$-\$\$ Experienced DIY
Fencing can lead a wildfire directly into you home		
Combustible fencing that attaches directly to the home	Replace combustible fencing with a non-combustible section that is at least 5 feet long. Consider chain link gate, wood frame with metal mesh infill or other non-combustible material. Do not allow climbing vegetation to grown on fence.	\$\$-\$\$ Experienced DIY

Sustaining the Plan

6.1 Updates of the Wildfire Action Plan

To ensure long-term success, the El Cerrito - Kensington Wildfire Action Plan needs to include a method for changing, updating and revising the plan. As partners learn from successes and challenges, they may identify new actions or propose a shift in how decisions are made or actions accomplished.

It is important to recognize that many communities may lack resources to engage in a complex planning, monitoring and adaptive management process. The collaborative planning effort for the El Cerrito Kensington Action Plan was funded through a generous grant; however, similar funding is unlikely to be available for update efforts. Regardless, streamlined communications can leverage the initial planning effort to maintain a functioning collaboration and provide updates.

Project partners have agreed to the following roles in sustaining the Plan:

- **Diablo Fire Safe Council:** Communicate electronically with stakeholders and other partner agencies collecting information for annual status of the plan. Annual information will include an update of the status of geographically based fuel reduction projects and prevention strategies listed in Section 4 Prioritizing Fuel Reduction Treatments and of the priority action projects identified in Sections 3, 4 and 5. Updated information will be posted on the DFSC website and sent electronically to Fire Action Plan planning participants and other interested stakeholders.
- **Contra Costa County Association of Fire Chiefs:** The Contra Costa County Association of Fire Chiefs provides a forum for interagency information sharing across the many fire jurisdictions. They are in the unique position to continue to foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation on WUI issues and emergency response.
- **East Bay Regional Park District:** As part of the annual budget development process EBRPD reports the prior year's fuels management accomplishments and present the proposed program of work for the next year. EBRPD works with cooperators to plan and conduct work in a way that improves fire protection and program efficiencies for both EBRPD and the cooperator. Information will be shared with DFSC, which will incorporate the information into the Fire Action Plan updates.
- **CAL FIRE:** The Santa Clara Unit Strategic Plan updates provide opportunity to view wildfire protection for Contra Costa County in context with neighboring Alameda, Santa Clara and San Joaquin Counties. Contra Costa County is Battalion 6 of seven geographically based battalions in CAL FIRE's Santa Clara Unit. The Santa Clara Unit collects information from the various stakeholders to update their unit plan. The most recent plan was completed in May 2016. Each update of the unit plan will be shared with DFSC, which will incorporate the information into the Fire Action Plan updates.
- **Kensington Fire Protection District:** The Fire Chief provides an annual report to the Kensington Fire Protection Board that can identify upcoming issues as well as progress. KFPD maintains updated information on the water delivery system in

Kensington. KPFD also matches community fundraising for Kensington Fuel Reduction Group's projects. Information will be shared with DFSC, who will incorporate the information into the Fire Action Plan updates.

- El Cerrito Fire Department: The Fire Chief provides an annual report to the City Council that can identify upcoming issues as well as progress. Information will be shared with DFSC, which will incorporate the information into the Fire Action Plan updates.
- Other Partners: **Note: This section to be further developed as the plan is implemented.**

6.2 Monitoring, Evaluating and Adapting Strategies

The following framework offers strategies to monitor, evaluate and adapt the elements of the Fire Action Plan¹. Strategies might include:

- Only monitor what matters. Partners should identify key goals and objectives and make decisions to monitor what is most important to the long-term sustainability of their Fire Action Plan.
- Tracking accomplishments and identifying the extent to which Plan goals have been met. This might include development of "success stories." (Examples can be found at www.diablofiresafe.org/current.html)
- Examining collaborative relationships and their contributions to Fire Action Plan implementation, including existing participants and potential new partners.
- Identifying actions and priority fuels reduction projects that have not been implemented and determining why.
- Setting a course for future actions and updating the plan.
- Evaluating the resources necessary for successful Plan implementation. Identifying needed community and homeowner outreach and education programs.

In conducting an evaluation, it is important to think critically about the kind of information that is accessible, what is most important to evaluate and how it might influence future priority activities. For example, the number of homes in a community with an evacuation plan provides insight into the level of preparedness among the general public, but may be difficult to obtain. Each action team should adapt the evaluation process; how information and results are documented with an eye toward refinements of the Fire Action Plan to meet their own needs. The following ideas for monitoring and evaluation are provided as suggestions.

6.2.1 Evaluating Information, Education and Collaborative Planning

Understanding the extent to which information, education and collaborative planning have been maintained, grown or diminished through implementation of the Fire Action Plan will

¹ Evaluation framework adapted from: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Evaluation Guide. Prepared by Resource Innovations, Institute for a Sustainable Environment. August 2008. University of Oregon. http://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/eval_9-8-08_web.pdf Accessed 2/28/2017.

help identify strategies to strengthen future efforts. Monitoring and evaluation might address any of the following:

Programs: What kind of information, education and public involvement has the Plan or its implementation fostered? Public meetings, trainings, field trips, demonstration projects, household visits, youth engagement, community events, clean up days.

Public Awareness: What kind of change in public awareness about wildfire has resulted from the plan or implementation actions? Knowledge of fire policies and regulations; change in number and type of human caused wildfires; awareness of local efforts to increase emergency preparedness; outreach efforts or techniques.

Activities: What kinds of activities have citizens taken to reduce wildfire risks as a result of the plan? Defensible space, fuel reduction, household emergency plans, woody debris disposal.

New information: Are there new or updated data sources that might change the risk assessment and influence priorities? Changes to process used to identify fuels treatments priorities? New wildfire related policies or ordinances? Index to access specific information?

Involvement: Who has been involved with the Fire Action Plan development and implementation? How have relationships changed or grown? What expertise or resources did partners bring? Numbers and types of partners (local, regional, state)? Accomplishments or challenges?

Implementation Capacity: How has the collaborative process assisted in implementing the Fire Action Plan and building capacity for the community to reduce wildfire risk? More partnerships, increased financial resources, increases in programs or activities.

Engagement: Have the partners involved in the planning process remained engaged in the implementation? Have new partners become involved?

6.2.2 Evaluating Suppression Capability and Emergency Preparedness

Comprehensive emergency management plays a key role in reducing a community's risk from wildfire and other hazards. Integrating federal requirements for multi-hazard mitigation within the Fire Action Plan efforts can help access federal funds through FEMA and Department of Homeland Security.

Alignment: Is the Plan aligned with emergency operations plans and other hazard mitigation plans? Addressing National Incident Management System (NIMS), State Emergency Management Plan (SEMS) and Incident Command Training (ICS).

Evacuation Planning: Does the Plan include an evacuation plan? Has the plan been tested? Are there local neighborhood evacuation plans, information about special population needs, animal and livestock preparedness, communication systems, resources list?

6.2.3 Evaluating Fuel Reduction

Monitoring hazardous fuels reduction projects on private and public lands will assist stakeholders in understanding the extent to which risk reduction goals and native habitat preservation goals are being accomplished. Monitoring these projects allows stakeholders to better understand the extent of resources needed to accomplish and maintain goals, as well as to help in identifying future priorities.

Fuel Reduction on Public Lands: How many acres have been treated on public land that had been identified as high priority projects? Total number of acres treated; number and percentage in WUI, number and percentage within Fire Action Plan priority area; treatment types.

Fuel Reduction on Private Lands: How many acres have been treated on private land that had been identified as high priority projects? Total number of acres treated; treatment types; number of homes with defensible space; number and percentage treated in low income communities/ vulnerable populations.

Compliance: How many homes are in compliance with local fuel reduction requirements?

Joint Projects: How many projects have spanned ownership boundaries including public and private lands?

Jobs: Economic development and local jobs resulting from fuels reduction or restoration activities. Number of green tons/ volume of woody fuel utilized. Number of part-time/ full time jobs. Percentage of local labor.

Environmental Protection: Ecological monitoring to assess environmental outcomes and maintenance requirements. Community surveys using photo points. Vegetation/ invasive weed surveys.

6.2.4 Evaluating Reducing Structure Ignitability

Monitoring structure survivability of existing structures and new developments span a wide range of actions including retrofit, codes, public knowledge and emergency response capability.

Fire Statistics: Wildfire loss in year reporting on. Number of fire starts within high hazard areas. Number of human caused fires. Number of homes damaged/ lost to wildfire.

Codes and Regulations: Current codes and regulations for wildfire hazards. Building codes (Chapter 7A or better). How is new development increasing in high hazard areas. Requirements for new developments. Mechanism for long term open space fuel management. Infill requirements. Infrastructure design requirements (roads, sprinklers, utilities = NFPA standards).

Public Education: Public knowledge and understanding about structure ignitability. Homeowner education on how to reduce ignitability. How many homes have been retrofitted. Number and percentage of homes in high hazard area included in fire district.

Response Capabilities: Changes of local fire agency response capability. Increase in certified fire fighters/ wildfire training. Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment. Changes in response time, infrastructure, access routes.

Signature Page

**El Cerrito Kensington
Fire Action Plan
An Appendix to the Contra Costa Countywide
Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

Mutual Agreement

This Fire Action Plan developed for El Cerrito and Kensington as an Appendix to the Contra Costa Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and agencies managing land in the El Cerrito and Kensington area have been consulted.
- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatments and recommends types and methods of treatments that will protect community members and values at risk.
- Recommends measures to reduce ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

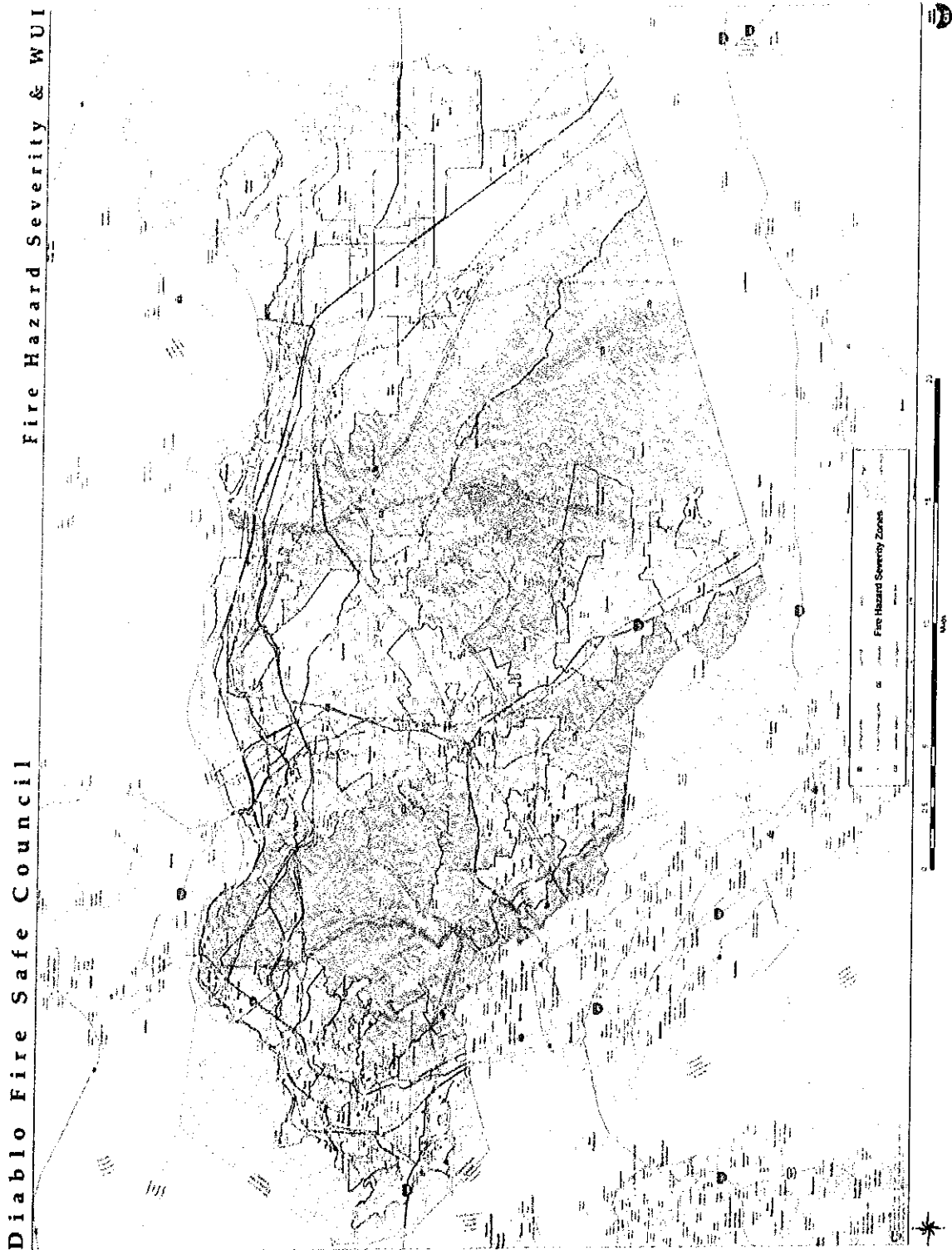
The following letters are from the entities that mutually agree with the contents of this Fire Action Plan.

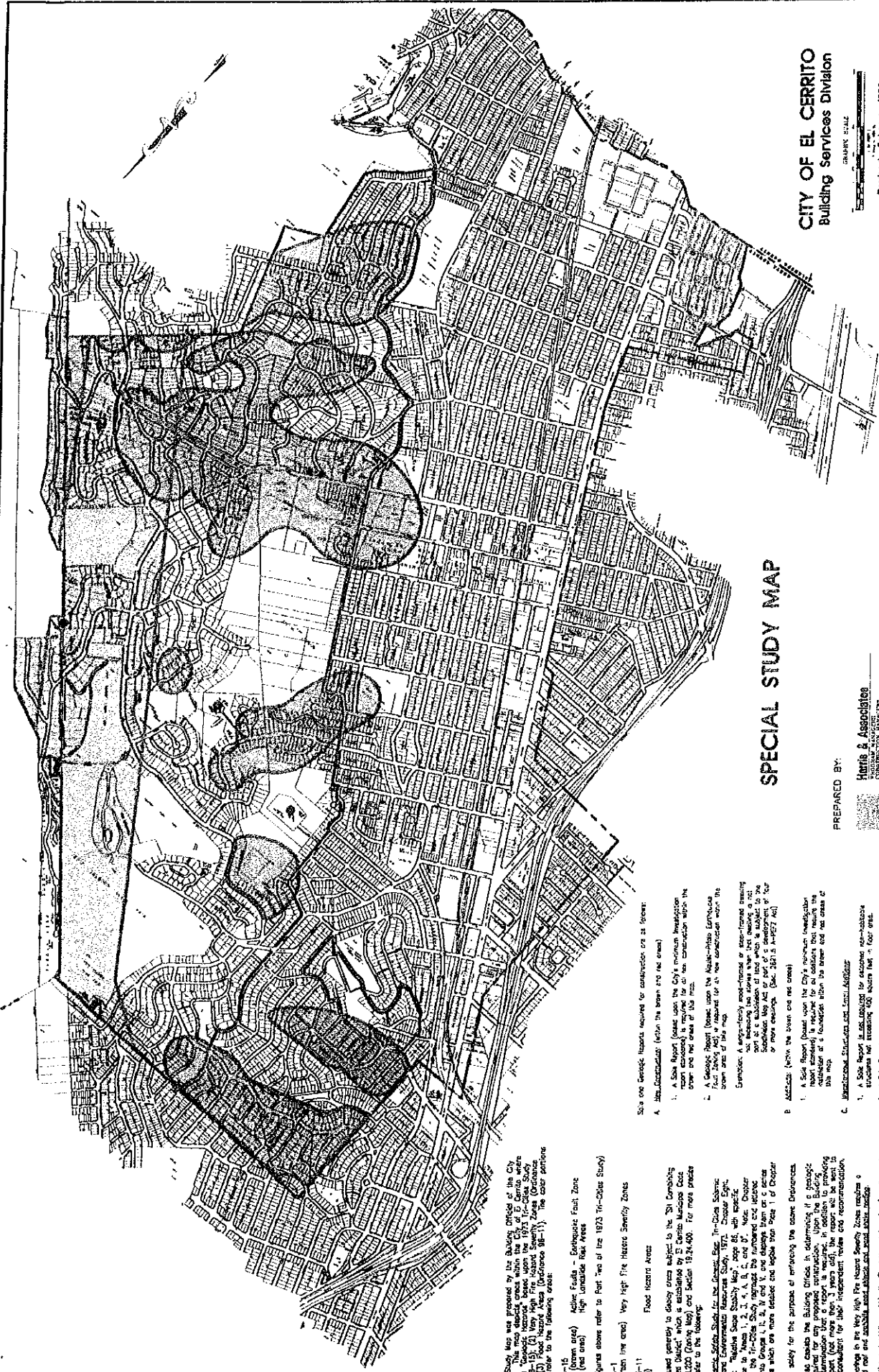
Approved by Resolution
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

City of El Cerrito, City Council

Appendix A

Fire Hazard Severity and WUI Area Maps





CITY OF EL CERRITO
 Building Services Division

GRAPHIC SCALE
 1" = 100'
 Revised February 1979

SPECIAL STUDY MAP

PREPARED BY:
Harris & Associates
 ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, PLANNERS
 CIVIL ENGINEERS
 1500 RIVER STREET, SUITE 200
 OAKLAND, CALIF. 94612

This Special Study Map was prepared by the Building Official of the City of El Cerrito. The map depicts areas within the City of El Cerrito where there are (1) existing fire hazards, based upon the 1973 Fire-Code Study (Section 18.02.200 (Drawing Map) and Section 18.04.400. For more precise information refer to the following:

Ordinance 88-15 Active Faults - Earthquake Fault Zone
 Figure 2 (brown area)
 Figure 4 (red area)
 Figure 4 (red area)
 (Note: The Figures above refer to Part Two of the 1973 Fire-Code Study)

Ordinance 88-11 Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 (within green line area)
 (blue area)

Flood Hazard Areas

This map is used primarily to identify areas subject to the 701 Commission Seismic Hazard District which is established by El Cerrito Municipal Code Section 18.02.200 (Drawing Map) and Section 18.04.400. For more precise information refer to the following:

The Seismic Safety Study for the El Cerrito, El Cerrito, and El Cerrito de los Artes Safety and Environmental Remediation Study, 1973, Chapter Eight, Part 1: "Seismic Safety Study Map", page 88, with specific reference to Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, A, B, C, and D.
 Part 2 of the 1973-Code Study required the numbering and zoning of areas which are more detailed and appear on Page 1 of Chapter Eight.

This map is solely for the purpose of enforcing the above Ordinances. It does not constitute the Building Official's determination of the hazard. If a building is to be constructed, the Building Official's determination that a report is required, in addition to providing an outside consultant for their independent review and recommendation.

See map covering the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within a 300-foot buffer of the Active Faults and Earthquake Fault Zone. See map covering the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within a 300-foot buffer of the Flood Hazard Areas.

- See one Geographic Hazard required for construction or a system:
- A. **Non-Construction** (within the brown and red areas)
1. A Site Report (based upon the City's minimum investigation report standards) is required for all buildings that require the construction of a foundation within the brown and red areas of this map.
 2. A Geologic Report (based upon the Active-Fault Earthquake Hazard Investigation Report standards) is required for all buildings that require the construction of a foundation within the brown and red areas of this map.
- Exception: A geologic report is not required for a new construction within the brown areas of this map.
- B. **Additional** (within the brown and red areas)
1. A Site Report (based upon the City's minimum investigation report standards) is required for all buildings that require the construction of a foundation within the brown and red areas of this map.
 2. A Flood Report (based upon the City's minimum investigation report standards) is required for all buildings that require the construction of a foundation within the brown and red areas of this map.
- C. **Structural** (within the brown and red areas)
1. A Site Report is not required for existing non-hazardous structures not exceeding 400 square feet - four areas.
 2. A Flood Report may not be required for small buildings (less than 30 square feet in floor area).

BOARD REPORTS

The Fire Plug



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spring Time Vegetation Management Inspections

All homeowners in California should prepare for wildfires. By following the vegetation management guidelines adopted by the Kensington Fire Protection District, property owners can reduce the speed that a fire could grow in an effort to protect their own home and the homes around them. Nearly the entire community of Kensington is in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." The Fire District is requesting voluntary compliance and citizen involvement in the reduction of fire hazards in our community.

Fire department personnel will check for compliance with the District's standards beginning in May. Voluntary compliance by the Kensington community is usually outstanding and we again look forward to everyone's cooperation this year.

Vegetation management tips:

- *Trim trees up 10 feet from the ground. Remove dead and dying branches, loose and papery bark, and fallen branches.*
- *Trim all grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.*
- *Cut trees 10 feet back from chimney openings.*
- *Remove or prune vegetation near windows.*
- *Install a spark arrestor on all chimneys and stovepipes.*
- *Keep roof, gutters and decks free of leaves, needles, twigs or other dead vegetation.*
- *Only fire resistive plants and shrubs are recommended.*
- *All abatement must be maintained throughout the entire fire season.*

The Fire Department can assist individual homeowners in planning and developing a defensible space against wildfires. Pick up a copy of the *Defensible Space* brochure at the Kensington Fire Station or from www.kensingtonfire.org/links.shtml. To download a file of the District's full *vegetation management guidelines* and a list of recommended plants and trees, go to www.kensingtonfire.org/safety/index.shtml

If you require additional guidance in resolving fire hazards, contact Fire Prevention Officer, Captain Joe Gagne, at (510) 215-4457.

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KFPD BOARD OF

DIRECTORS:

- Don Dommer, President
- Janice Kosel, Vice President
- Larry Nagel, Secretary
- Joe de Ville, Director
- Nina Harmon, Director

KFPD STAFF:

- Lance Maples, Chief
- Brenda Navellier, Manager



You, as the property owner, are the most important person when it comes to protecting your home from a wildfire.



Pharmaceutical Drop Off

KFPD and KPPCSD will once again join together to bring the residents of Kensington a pharmaceutical drop off on **Saturday, April 29, 2017**. This *free* event will take place at the Kensington Public Safety Building (217 Arlington Avenue) from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This program is possible through the Drug Enforcement Agency's "Got Drugs?" campaign to safely dispose of unnecessary medications.

Fire and Police personnel will be available to accept all unused or expired medications including narcotics, pills, syrups, inhalers, etc. We do not

accept any household hazardous waste.



It is important not to flush your unwanted medications down the toilet as they will pollute our drinking water and ground soil. Unwanted medications left in your medicine cabinet put chil-

dren and teens at risk. Call (510) 215-4450 or (510) 526-4141 with any questions regarding this event.

Home Fire Extinguishers

KFPD recommends every home have a minimum of one 2A/10BC rated fire extinguisher on hand for emergencies. Be sure to familiarize your-

self with the proper operation of your fire extinguisher. You can get instructions here: <http://www.fire-extinguisher101.com/using.html>

Community Emergency Response Team Training

The Kensington Fire Protection District offers ongoing training opportunities to prepare yourself, your family and our community for a major disaster—Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT). To sign up for either full CERT training or CERT bootcamp, please contact Kensington Fire at (510) 215-4450 or email fire@kensingtonfire.org.



CERT BOOT CAMP:

Training opportunities include our day-long CERT Boot Camp which will take place in the spring on **Saturday, May 6th**. This class is from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Arlington Park Clubhouse (1120 Arlington Blvd.) in El Cerrito. This class is a non-certified, condensed format of our 8-week long CERT class but touches on all of the same topics. Classes are *free* of charge.

CERT TRAINING:

Utilizing the national CERT curriculum, this 20-hour program is designed to assist residents of Kensington to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. Our fall session will take place at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington on **Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** The final drill will take place on a Saturday. CERT participants receive free emergency preparedness items to complement their training. Sign up now or make-up a missed class to receive your training certificate.

8/29/17	Introduction to CERT/DSW
9/5/17	Fire Suppression and Utility Control
9/12/17	Search and Rescue
9/19/17	Disaster Psychology
9/26/17	CERT Organization
10/3/17	Terrorism Awareness
10/10/17	Disaster Medical Part 1
10/17/17	Disaster Medical Part 2
10/28/17	Simulation/Drill
	(All Day at Fire Training Facility)

Spring Shredding Event

The Kensington Fire Protection District's popular shredding event will be held this spring on **Saturday, April 22nd from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

This *free* event is open to all Kensington residents to dispose of excess papers (fire hazards) in your household.

A mobile shredding truck will be parked at the north end of the Community Center/Library parking lot during the designated time and can destroy all papers on site. There is no limit to the amount of shredding material that you may bring. It

is not necessary to remove staples and paper clips.

All paper shredding is recycled by returning it to a paper mill. If you have any questions about this event please contact us at (510) 215-4450.



CPR/First Aid Classes

KFPD will be offering a CPR/First Aid classes this spring on **Saturday, April 8th and Saturday, June 17th** at the Arlington Community Church in Kensington.

Space is limited and priority registration is given to Kensington and El Cerrito residents.



Cost for residents is \$39 for CPR and \$78 for both CPR and First Aid.

Additional classes will be offered throughout the remainder of the year. You can sign-up by emailing fire@kensingtonfire.org or calling (510) 215-4450.

Smoke Detector/Carbon Monoxide Requirements

According to the California Building Code, all residences must have smoke detectors installed. The purpose of a smoke detector is to provide audible warning of a fire in its early stages while there's still time for you and your family to escape safely. Smoke detectors installed properly and maintained in working order dramatically reduce the risk of dying in a fire.



Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room (or den or family room) or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations.

For smoke alarms that use

9 volt batteries, be sure to change the battery every six months.

State law also requires carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in all houses that have either an attached garage, fireplace or gas heater or appliance.

CO detectors should be installed outside of each sleeping area in a house, on each level of the house and in the basement also. You may only need one detector in your house or you may need several depending on the layout of your home. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the package to ensure you have properly installed your detector.

If you're unsure how many detectors you need or need advice on placement, contact the Fire Prevention Officer, Captain Joe Gagne, at (510) 215-4457.

**KENSINGTON FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Kensington Public Safety Building
217 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, CA 94708

Phone: (510) 527-8395
Fax: (510) 527-8396
E-mail: fire@kensingtonfire.org

*When in Doubt—
Call Us Out!*

We're on the Web!
www.kensingtonfire.org



Defensible Space Grants and Fire Safe Planting Grants

The Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC), an independent agency serving both Alameda and Contra Costa counties, is sponsoring defensible space fuel reduction projects for the current calendar year. Cost share assistance of up to \$5,000 per project is available to groups or groups of individuals or neighbors to hire a contractor to remove junipers and/or to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space on your property. The next deadline for applying for a defensible space grant is April 17, 2017.

For more information, go to www.diablofiresafe.org or contact Cheryl Miller at DFSCMiller@comcast.net.

In addition, the Kensington Fire Protection District is offering re-planting grants to residents that remove hazardous vegetation and wish to plant fire safe landscaping on their parcels.



KFPD has six grants available at up to \$500 each during the current fiscal year (June 30, 2017). Contact fire@kensingtonfire.org or (510) 215-4450 for more information.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE CONTRA COSTA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

Date: Monday, April 17, 2017
Time: 10:00 a.m. Meeting – 9:30 a.m. Meet & greet opportunity with refreshments
Location: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA

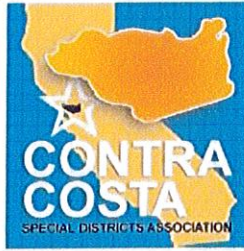
AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions (Your Name & Agency, brief news of your agency)
- 10:15 a.m. Approval of January 23, 2017 meeting minutes
- 10:20 a.m. Election: Special District Member to County Oversight Committee Appointment
- 10:25 a.m. Finance Report, Budget Update, and Budget Approval: Treasurer *Bert Michalczyk, Associate Member*
- 10:35 a.m. Guest Speaker: *Mike Carlson, Contra Costa County Flood Control District*
Topic: "Lower Walnut Creek – Past, Present and Future"
- 11:10 a.m. Member District Highlight: *Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District*
Speaker: *Andrew Pierce, CCMVCD Community Affairs Representative*
"Updates about mosquitos and other vectors"
- 11:25 a.m. Scholarship and Grant Program: *John Burgh Contra Costa Water District*
- 11:30 a.m. LAFCO Representative Report: *Mike McGill, Contra Costa LAFCo Commissioner*
- 11:40 a.m. East Bay Regional Park District: Park Advisory Committee Report: *Igor Skaredoff*
- 11:50 a.m. Legislative Committee Report: *Erich Pfuehler, East Bay Regional Parks District*
- 12:00 p.m. California Special Districts Association Activities Update: *Stan Caldwell, Mt. View Sanitary District*
- 12:05 p. m Other Local Government official updates
- 12:15 p.m. Adjourn Next meeting will be July 17, 2017

IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING THE APRIL MEETING PLEASE SEND THE NAME OF YOUR SPECIAL DISTRICT AND THE REPRESENTATIVE(S) ATTENDING THIS MEETING NO LATER THAN April 10, 2017

To: Suzette Crayton, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
Email: scrayton@centralsan.org
Phone: (925) 229-7300, Fax: (925) 372-0192

Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates: July 17, 2017, and October 16, 2017



Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

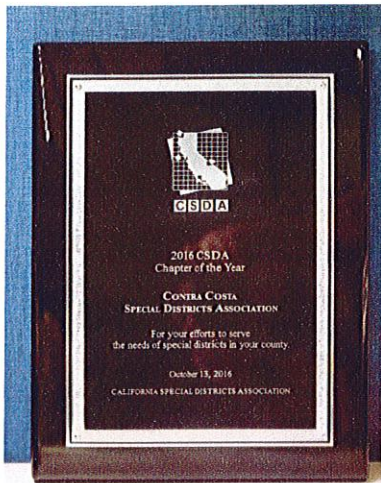
Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

Spring 2017

March 2017

CSDA Chapter of the year

The Contra Costa Special Districts Association was named the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) chapter of the year.



Ed Duarte the chapter's member at large accepted the award on Thursday October 13, 2016 during the awards ceremony at the CSDA Annual Conference.

Colleen has worked with numerous legislators including being a Legislative Aide to Assemblymember Joan Buchanan and Field Coordinator for Senate Lois Wolk.

Dane Walde will continue to be with CSDA as the Field Coordinator for the Northern and Sierra Networks.



Colleen will be covering CSDA's Bay Area Network

PAFC Dane Wadlé will scale back his territory to cover the other two northern California Networks (Northern & Sierra).

New Public Affairs Field Coordinator

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) District NetWorks Program Welcomes New Field Coordinators. CSDA's District NetWorks program continues to expand with the addition of two new Public Affairs Field Coordinators (PAFC).

Colleen Haley and Steven Nascimento started their new role on January 3. While their operations are based in the Bay Area and Central Valley, respectively, they spent their first week at the Sacramento headquarters learning all about CSDA, and its members. They are ready to hit the ground running!

Colleen will be the field coordinator overseeing the Bay Area Network. She was most recently the Communications and Engagement Specialist for Destination: Home, a program of the Health Trust in Santa Clara County. She has also worked as a Senior Field Representative for Senator Bob Wieckowski.

The Public Affairs Field Coordinator serves as CSDA's local liaison to special districts, key decision makers, the press and the public-at-large, providing a strategic link between CSDA's activities in the State Capitol and the local region/network.

California Tax Exempt Status

On December 26th, 2016 Contra Costa Special Districts Association was granted California Tax Exempt status! **We now have both State and Federal Tax Exempt Status.** The California Tax Exempt status is effective beginning June 27, 2016.



Send Us Your News!

Got a story we should know about?
Have an event you want to share?

Email us at:
stan_caldwell@comcast.net

Election of 2017 CSDA Board Officers

CSDA Board elections for the 2017 Executive Committee were held at the CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase in San Diego.



Congratulations to CSDA's new officers to the 2017 Executive Committee who will take office January 1, 2017:

President: Vince Ferrante, Moss Landing Harbor District

Vice-President: Greg Orsini, McKinleyville Community Services District

Secretary: Arlene Schafer, Costa Mesa Sanitary District

Treasurer: Joel Bauer, SDA, West Side Cemetery District

We welcome to the Bay Area Network new CSDA board member - Ryan Clausnitzer, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District (Director-Elect)

Central San "2016 Green Business of the Year"

The 2016 Green Business of the Year was awarded to Central Contra Costa Sanitary District by The Bay Area Green Business Program, (a founding member of the California Green Business Program). The agency has protected public health and the environment for 70 years through collection and treatment of wastewater. It serves approximately 481,600 residents and more than 3,000 businesses in central Contra Costa County, including San Ramon.



Breaking ground at Byron's new community park



The official groundbreaking for the new Byron community park was celebrated this week with a public event, which included food, games and a performance by the Excelsior Middle School choir. The park, which will include an all-abilities playground and an educational and interpretive center, will be paid for with Measure VVW funds and a \$600,000 grant from the East Bay Regional Park District. Pictured from left to right are Betty Sanchez, Diane Stewart, Jill Sprenkel, Debbie Gold, Diane Burgis, Mary Piepho, Mark McBride, George Escutia, Jr., Erica Rodriguez-Langley and Colleen Isenberg.

LAFCO News:

Commissioner Mike McGill reelected to new two-year term on CALAFCO Board

Commissioner Mike McGill (Special District Member) successfully defended his seat on the CALAFCO Board of Directors and will serve another two years in this position. Additionally, Commissioner McGill was elected by the CALAFCO Board to serve as Treasurer for 2017.

Commissioner Don Tatzin, 2016 CALAFCO Outstanding Commissioner

Commissioner Don Tatzin (City Member) received the CALAFCO Outstanding Commissioner award in recognition of his tireless dedication to public service at the local and regional levels. Don's work on complex LAFCO reorganizations (e.g., Mt. Diablo Healthcare District), special studies, and LAFCO policies and procedures (e.g., agricultural & open space preservation, out of agency service, etc.) serves Contra Costa County well.

Delta Diablo Wins Governor's Award for Sustainability Leadership

Delta Diablo was honored in Sacramento January 19th with a prestigious 2016 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA).

GEELA is California's highest environmental honor, administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency. The program recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable, voluntary contributions in conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing our environment, building public-private partnerships and strengthening the state's economy.

The award recognizes Delta Diablo for its commitment and achievements in sustainability. At Delta Diablo, sustainability is not just one project or program, but rather a mindset that is holistically expressed throughout the entire organization. This can be observed through the recycled water and renewable energy projects that they implement, the innovative technologies they pilot, and the regional coalitions that they lead.

These projects and programs reflect how Delta Diablo embodies sustainability and excellence throughout the organization, achieving 12 consecutive years of 100% permit compliance, and awards at every level in the organization for public education, safety, financial reporting, human resources, labor relations, procurement, engineering, leadership and innovation.

Delta Diablo is proud to help maintain sustainable facilities, practices, and communities, and desires to be a Utility of the Future to advance the state of the industry for water resource recovery, helping to create a sustainable California.

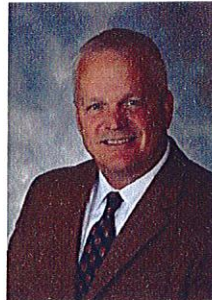


Photo Left-Right: Mike Bakaldin (Interim General Manager), Phil Govea (Engineering Services Director), Joaquin Gonzalez (Operations Manager), Amanda Roa (Environmental Programs Manager), and Robert Brothers (Environmental Compliance Specialist II)

Delta Diablo's Board of Directors' Chair Pete Longmire confirms: "This award recognizes every aspect of Delta Diablo's services and the efforts of all our dedicated employees across every department. It is a recognition of the daily work they do providing critical public health and resource recovery services to 200,000 people in Antioch, Bay Point and Pittsburg, as well as their leadership with several regional industry coalitions."

Each year GEELA recipients are chosen from five categories and Delta Diablo was recognized under the "Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities" category.

Delta Diablo Manager Gary Darling Retires



Gary W. Darling retired in December after more than 13 years as the general manager of the Delta Diablo Sanitation District, 14 years at the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and a stint at the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

Gary Darling, Delta Diablo Sanitation District's general manager, will be opening a consulting business with his wife - Darling H2O Consulting.

Over his career in public service, Darling has seen his focus shift from water and water solutions, to wastewater and more recently bioenergy.

"I've been delighted with the idea on the wastewater side that we've become resource developers," Darling said. "No longer do we accept the sewage flow in a treatment plant, treat it and get rid of it. We're busy converting that into a resource... We've really come a long way in developing recycled water for the region. We have a lot of accomplishments to be proud of."

Currently, deputy general manager Michael Bakaldin is in the role of acting general manager.

Not a CSDA Member?

CSDA is glad to offer the Trial Membership program again. Non-member districts have the opportunity to experience CSDA membership absolutely free – from April 1 through June 30.

For more information please contact Anna Palmer, member services specialist, at annap@cdda.net or 877.924.2732 for program details.

Sherry Sterret honored as the recipient of the Hollingsworth Award

This honor is awarded to an individual who has been championing for special districts. The award was developed in honor of William Hollingsworth, one of the founding fathers of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and a foremost advocate for special districts in the capitol in the 1970's. CSDA recognizes individuals with this award "who exemplify what it means to go above and beyond the call of duty and advocate extensively both for CSDA and special districts." Sherry was chosen for the award unanimously by the CSDA board of directors.

Throughout her career and through active community involvement, Sherry identified the need and opportunity to provide for full integration of local government services, community needs and capacity, legislative activities, and solid governance practices. Sherry promotes special districts and their purpose, and the education of directors, managers, and staff of special districts.

Sherry has a well-deserved reputation for being knowledgeable about issues of importance to the special districts of Contra Costa County and of California; she enthusiastically promotes, advocates, and supports special districts at every opportunity.

Sherry's accomplishments, talents, achievements, and accountability are exemplary. She has been a great leader and at CSDA we have seen and experienced her proven leadership skills, integrity, and dedication.



Sherry was unable to attend the CSDA Annual Conference; the award was presented at a celebration and reception Tuesday Nov 29th hosted by the city of Pleasant Hill and the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District (PHR&PD). The event was held to honor the retirement for Councilman David Durant, and Dennis Donaghu, and Sherry Sterrett of PHR&PD.

Keepsake box presented to Sherry Sterrett

At the November 17th board meeting of the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Sherry was presented the keepsake box and card from the October 17th meeting of the Contra Costa Special Districts Association that she was unable to attend. CCSDA vice president Stanley Caldwell presented the award to Sherry.



Sherry Sterrett, Stan Caldwell, and Michelle Lacy PHR&PD General Manager

Sherry has elected to retire from all public service. She will be missed by all that know her.

Mark Your Calendar for these 2017 CSDA Conferences

Special District Leadership Academy Conferences
 April 23 - 26, 2017 - San Luis Obispo
 July 9 - 12, 2017 - Napa

SDRMA Safety / Claims Education Day
 March 28, 2017 - Sacramento

Special Districts Legislative Days
 May 16 - 17, 2017 - Sacramento

General Manager Leadership Summit
 June 25 - 27, 2017 - Newport Beach

CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase
 September 25 - 28, 2017 - Monterey

Special District Board Secretary / Clerk Conference
 October 22 - 24, 2017 - Anaheim



California Special Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

ISD receives four Awards of Excellence

Ironhouse Sanitary District is honored to have received four prestigious awards of excellence from the San Francisco Bay Section of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) at their awards banquet on Friday, January 20. The awards of excellence are for "Plant of the Year", "Collection System of the Year", "Newsletter of the Year" and "Community Engagement and Outreach: Project of the Year".



Nearly all of Ironhouse employees are members of CWEA and have received certification and training from CWEA sponsored programs.

The "Plant of the Year" award recognizes the District's accomplishments in compliance, innovative practices, cost effectiveness, and superior plant performance.

The "Collection System of the Year" award recognizes the District's efforts to protect public health and the natural beauty of the environment through pro-active practices of management, operations and maintenance.

The "Newsletter of the Year" award recognizes the District's excellent community outreach and engagement efforts through the information provided in our quarterly Ironhouse Insider Newsletter.

The "Community Engagement and Outreach: Project of the Year" award recognizes the District for the March 2016 Water Recycling Facility tour provided to 700 sixth-grade students, teachers and chaperones over two days.

LV Staff Earns Outstanding Team Award from Water District

The Los Vaqueros Watershed Staff of Cary Richardson, John Howard, Allison Batteate, Clayton Funk, Colton Rogers & Marco Siragusa earned the Contra Costa Water District's Outstanding Team Award for 2016.

The LV team was noted for its innovation, exemplary

work performance and teamwork. This past year, it designed and built kiosks that were located throughout the watershed that help visitors and hikers orient themselves and reduce the number of call outs to rescue lost visitors. The kiosks -- featuring fire danger levels, maps and guidelines to enjoying LV -- were designed and built by the staff. This allowed the staff to design them specifically for their needs, and cost less than commercially-designed kiosks.

Delta Diablo Recognized by California Water Environment Association

Delta Diablo is proud to announce they have been recognized in two categories by the California Water Environment Association (San Francisco Bay Section) for excellence in wastewater resource recovery management:

2016 Plant of the Year (Medium) - This award honors exceptional California wastewater resource recovery facilities and agencies. The rating criteria are very broad based, covering every aspect of our operations. They include an agency's compliance record, biosolids processing, fiscal management, pretreatment program, safety program, professional development, energy conservation, resource recovery, inventory control, innovation, computer and SCADA systems and maintenance systems.

2016 Community Engagement & Outreach Person of the Year – was awarded to Public Information Manager Angela Lowrey, our Public Information Manager in recognition of her community engagement work at the local, regional and state national levels on behalf of our agency and industry over the past three years.

Raise awareness and understanding about special districts in our community

Simply download the Districts Make the Difference logo from www.DistrictsMakeTheDifference.org, place the logo on your districts homepage, and hyperlink the logo to the Districts Make the Difference website. This is an easy way for districts to educate our constituents about special districts.



East Bay Regional Park District News

In cooperation with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, has purchased a 76-acre former ranch on the eastern slopes of Mt. Diablo.

The parcel, known as the Hanson Hills property, will become part of the future Deer Valley Regional Park, extending the park's southern boundary to Marsh Creek Road. The Park District purchased the land from Save Mount Diablo for \$730,000, its appraised fair market value. East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy contributed \$547,500 toward the cost and funds from Measure WW covered the remainder.

"This beautiful property will be a tremendous asset for generations of East Bay residents," said Park District Board Member Diane Burgis, whose ward includes the Hanson Hills property. "It's also a critical part of the Marsh Creek watershed. We're thrilled to be able to protect this ecologically sensitive area forever."

The acquisition represents an important piece in long-term efforts to preserve land around Mount Diablo. The Hanson children, now all in their 80s, remember fishing for steelhead with their grandfather in Marsh Creek, just across the road, and camping out on warm nights atop the tallest hill. It was important to the family that the land they love so dearly be protected forever.

The land will remain closed to the public ("land banked") until the Deer Valley Regional Park Land Use Plan is completed.

East Contra Costa Fire Set to Receive \$730k in New Funding After Tax Transfer from Byron Irrigation District

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a property tax transfer of \$732,000 into the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District from the Byron Bethany Irrigation District.

The detachment of 480-acres from the Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID) where the boundaries of the Town of Discovery bay and BBID overlap and after a LAFCO approval, allow for a re-allocation of those funds.

Supervisor Piepho credited community members Bob Mankin and Gaylin Zeigler for being the "catalyst" for bringing this issue forward and enabling the county to take corrective action

Mankin discovered the overlap more than 20-months ago while digging into his Tax Rate Area on his tax bill. At that point he realized parts of his taxes were part of BBID unknowingly and 14.9% of his ad valorem tax goes to an irrigation district that is not offering me any services.

Supervisor Mary Piepho stated:

"Government agencies should not receive tax revenue from taxpayers when the agency is not providing a service. It is particularly egregious in this case as BBID was advised in 1993 that it was necessary to detach. BBID collected almost \$700,000 last year without providing any service to Discovery Bay residents. This must stop."

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to re-allocate these funds funds to the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District. It authorizes \$730,000 in property tax annually from the county beginning in fiscal year 2017-18.

The funding will continue to go to the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District unless it dissolves in the future. Piepho requested that safeguards be added to ensure those funds be used for whatever fire and EMS services are provided for the benefit of Discovery bay and unincorporated Contra Costa County.

Supervisor Andersen suggested they add a line to say the "intent of this board" was to ensure that money goes to EMS/Fire services in the Discovery Bay community.

East Contra Costa Fire Chief Calling it Quits



East Contra Costa Fire Protection District Fire Chief Hugh Henderson announced on Monday January 9th 2017 that he will be retiring.

Henderson has 36-years in fire service and his retirement date is set for March 30, 2017. Henderson was officially hired as fire chief in August of 2010, even though he had been doing the job since 2008.

DSRSD Hires Jeff Carson as New Operations Manager

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) has hired Jeff Carson as its new operations manager. For the last four years, Carson was operations and maintenance manager for the City of Hayward's water pollution control facility, which is similar in scale to DSRSD's regional wastewater treatment facility. As DSRSD's senior executive responsible for wastewater, drinking water, and recycled water operations, Carson will oversee a \$14.3 million annual budget and 62 employees. He started with DSRSD December 5th, 2016.



Jeff Carson, DSRSD operations manager

"Jeff is a strong leader who continually improves operations through systematic training and sustaining a culture of teamwork," says Dan McIntyre, DSRSD general manager. "His experience in Hayward deploying state-of-the-art technologies to recover energy and water from wastewater fit well with the District's strategic goals."

Valley View Middle School Teacher Named Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year



Shauna Hawes is one of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District's Teachers of the Year.

She has been named a Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year.

Shawna wrote John Burgh the CCSDA Scholarship Chair the following: "Thank you for your donation to the classroom grants for the Teachers of the Year. I was very grateful to receive the donation. I have already purchased the T-shirts for our Mouse Squad student tech leadership team, and plan to buy more materials for my tech classroom, robotics club, and GIRL camp. Community organizations like you make such a difference for our students. Thank you!

Hawes teaches computer applications/ technology to grades 6-8 at Valley View Middle School in Pleasant

Hill. She has been with Mt. Diablo Unified her entire 18-year teaching career.



Our \$1000 scholarship contribution to the Teacher of the year program continues to be a great success.

How Will the Rain Affect Mosquito Populations?

Ample rain after years of drought presents us with a unique landscape. While no one can predict the severity of the mosquito population this year nor the impact it will have on potential disease transmission, one thing is for certain: mosquitoes need water and there's plenty of it.

Persistent rains require persistent water management

Anything that holds water is a potential mosquito habitat. It's the number of sources and commitment to keeping those sources water free that is the burden. We must be as relenting as the rain in our efforts to control mosquitoes.



Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control has resources and information about how to deal with mosquitoes. Visit the website for more information:

<http://www.contracostamosquito.com/>

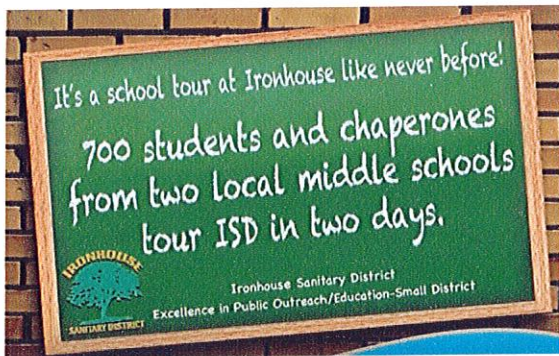
Your Districts News Story Could Have Been Here!

Please send your district news releases to Stan Caldwell to keep us informed about all of the exciting things your special district is up to. We always welcome your news contributions to our newsletter!

Newsletter Editor Email: stan_caldwell@comcast.net

“It’s a Tour like Never Before” brings home CASA award

In August Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD) was honored with the California Association of Sanitation Agencies’ Excellence in Public Education and Outreach Award (small district) in recognition of a school program the district coordinated in March, titled “It’s a Tour Like Never Before”.



It started with a phone call from one of the local middle school principals. Funding cuts meant that the annual weeklong science field trip that sixth grade students had taken for the last twenty years had to come to an end, leaving students with a giant hole in their education. All was not lost though, as the principal knew that there were plenty of opportunities to explore science in their own backyard and that began right at ISD.

The only question that remained was could ISD accommodate a tour of the Water Recycling Facility for every sixth grade student in the Oakley School District in two-days during school hours?

In the end 650 students, plus chaperones attended the tours, which included a hayride to the Water Recycling Facility and a 45-minute tour including walking tours of the aeration basin, membrane filtration and the Ultra Violet Light station. The District provided students with lessons on the importance of wastewater treatment and protecting the public health and the environment.

2016 Winner of CASA’s Outstanding Capital Project, Small Agency

West Yost Associates worked with the Mt. View Sanitary District to develop a rehabilitation program for an existing pump station to address the key project issues of capacity, reliability, and safety while the project stayed under the Agency’s budget.

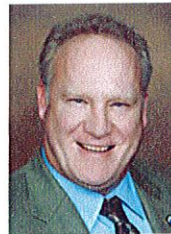
Capacity was expanded from 5.8 to 10 million gallons per day by installing new, larger pumps, and a redundant trailer-mounted pump was installed due to space constraints in the existing building.

Safety was improved by adding fiberglass reinforced plastic grating to the wet well access area, upgrading the ventilation and lighting systems, and increasing access to the control building to allow for easier removal of the pumps.

The final cost of the pump station rehabilitation project was approximately \$1M. This was \$2M less than the original estimate. The District is able to invest the savings in other critical infrastructure projects.

DSRSD Board Elects 2017 Officers

The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) Board of Directors has elected Richard Halket as president and Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold as vice president for 2017. The positions rotate annually, per District policy. The five-member board also includes Directors D.L. (Pat) Howard, Edward Duarte, and Madelyne (Maddi) Misheloff.



Richard Halket is president of the DSRSD Board of Directors in 2017.

Know someone that is not receiving the newsletter that would like to?



Have them contact Suzette and have them added to the distribution list.

Email: scrayton@centralsan.org

Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District and District Partners Win Multiple CPRS District 3 Outstanding Achievement Awards

The California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) District 3 Annual Awards Program recognizing excellence of the agencies, individuals, and professionals in the Park and Recreation field for 2016.

CPRS District 3 represents all the organizations, agencies, and professionals in the parks and recreation field in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

The District's Care Management Speaker Series won the competitive Agency Showcase Award for Outstanding Park & Recreation Program. This free monthly event brings seniors and their families together to learn about a variety of relevant topics related to the aging experience, facilitating a more educated aging community who can proactively plan and manage their own long-term care. CMS series is tremendously successful and continues to grow as the demand for aging education increases.

District-nominated Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center and District Business Partner, Land Home Financial won Outstanding Agency Awards for outstanding non-profit and business partner in Parks and Recreation, respectively. Both organizations devote tremendous resources for the improvement of the Pleasant Hill community.

Paul Cotruvo was awarded the Outstanding Community Volunteer Award. Cotruvo, a popular local musician, strongly believes that musicians should actively give back to the local communities that support their passion for music. His extensive volunteer efforts at many of the District's signature events have contributed greatly to the quality of these programs all while inspiring others to volunteer.

Bob Berggren, retired District General Manager, won a CPRS District 3 Lifetime Achievement Award for 40 years of outstanding leadership and service with the District and contributions to the community.

"These five award winners exemplify the passion and dedication that the District staff, community partners and affiliated individuals all share to make life better for residents in the Pleasant Hill community," said Zac Shess, Chair of the District's Board of Directors. "We are so appreciative of their efforts."

CSDA Honors Legislator of the Year

Special districts and local elected officials from Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties recognized Assembly Member Mark Stone as their 2016 Legislator of the Year. Assembly Member Stone was selected because of his non-partisan spirit, support of local flexibility, and close work with the local service specialists responsible for delivering waste management, water, fire protection, parks, and other essential services.



The recognition is awarded by CSDA, and was presented Friday, March 3 at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District in Marina, CA. Assembly Member Stone is recognized for fostering close relationships with the special district officials in his Assembly District in order to find solutions that empower communities to find answers to meet local needs.

CSDA Student Video Competition

And the winner is..."A World without Cheese" submitted by Allicia Dean from Etiwanda High School. More than 3,000 votes were cast for the five finalists. The second prize goes to Kaylie for "Districts Host Fun Events" and third prize to Jacob Cross for "California: Special Districts."

You can see the winning videos at:
www.districtsmakethedifference.org/contest



Please send your district news releases to
Stan Caldwell at stan_caldwell@comcast.net

Let us know about the exciting things your
special district is up to.

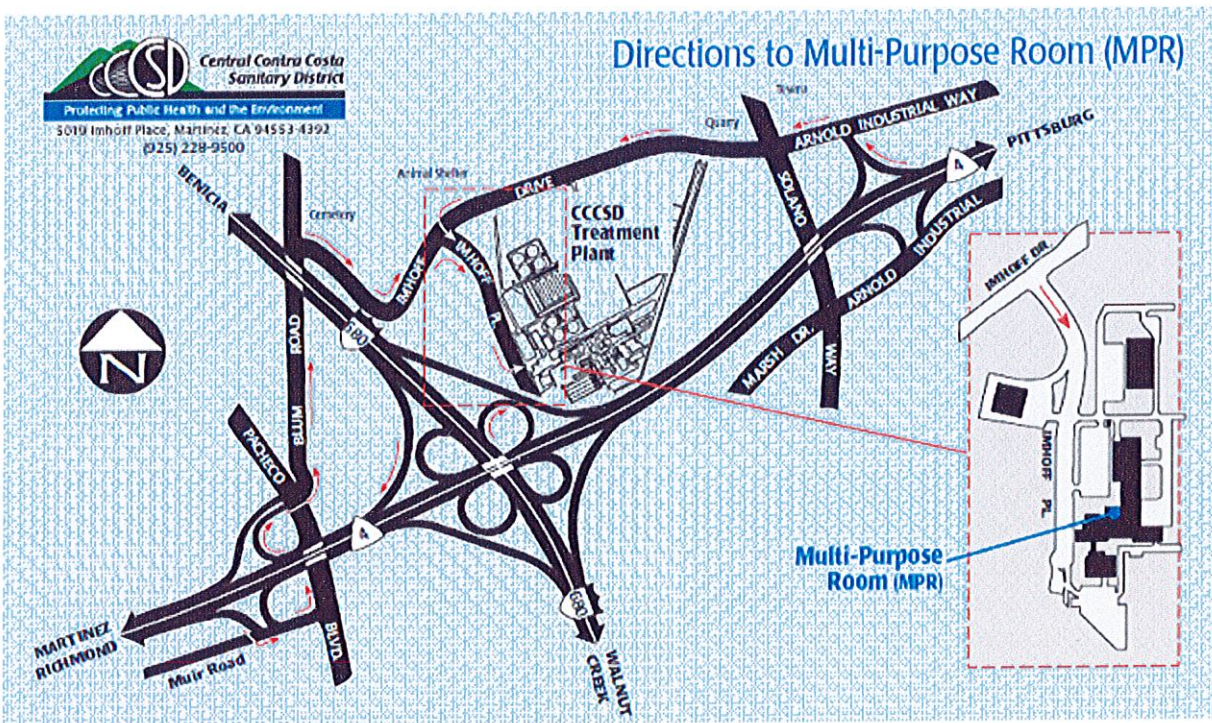
Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates:

April 17, 2017 ~ July 17, 2017 ~ October 16, 2017

Come at 9:30AM for a meet and greet opportunity to network with refreshments available.

Meet & Greet 9:30 AM (with refreshments available)
~ Meeting begins at 10:00 AM ~

We meet at Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA.



Contra Costa Special Districts Association
C/o Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
5019 Imhoff Place
Martinez, CA 94553

www.csda.net/contra-costa-special-districts-association

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District contact Suzette Crayton Email: scrayton@centralsan.org
Bette Boatmun, President & Chair - Email: bboatmun@yahoo.com
Stanley Caldwell, Vice President - Email: stan_caldwell@comcast.net
Edward Duarte Member at Large – Email: duarte@drrsd.com
Bert Michalczyk Treasurer – Email: leedscourt@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor Stanley Caldwell - Email: stan_caldwell@comcast.net

California Special Districts Association
1112 "I" Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814 877.924.2732

Date: 04/13/2017 [12:13:22 PM CDT]
From: Jean Durham <durham@sonic.net>
To: Chief Lance Maples <LMaples@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us>, Brenda Navallier <fire@kensingtonfire.org>
Subject: Fire House in the park.

April 13, 2017

Dear Chief Maples and Brenda Navallier:

I understand you are considering placing a new fire house in Kensington park. For the following reasons, I think this is not a good idea:

1.) In 1994 the Kensington Community voted to tax themselves to acquire the property, and for its upkeep. The yes vote was 77+% ! The tax was \$200 per parcel over several years. They also voted to acquire the adjacent open space... 76+% .

This suggests that the population of Kensington wants an area for KASEP. Small children's play yard, and tennis and basketball courts. These areas are well used.

2) The space taken up by a fire station would remove a big piece of the land now used by all ages and benefits all of us.

I hope you reconsider this idea. Maybe the police could find a new station and leave the Fire house to the Fire Department.

Sincerely,

Jean Durham

Kensingtonian since 1967.

Date: 04/26/2017 [08:44:41 PM CDT]
From: Beverly Thiele <beverlythiele6@gmail.com>
To: Maples <LMaples@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us>, Brenda Navallier <fire@kensingtonfire.org>, Dommer <don@dondommer.com>, Janice Kosel <janicekosel@gmail.com>, Fire Board <nina.harmon@gmail.com>, Fire Board <lwn@att.net>, Fire Board <coupedeville36@comcast.net>, Eileen Nottoli <enottoli@comcast.net>, Sylvia Hacaj <shacaj@comcast.net>, Len Welsh <lwelsh@kensingtoncalifornia.org>, Vanessa Cordova <vncordova@icloud.com>
Subject: open space

Please reconsider the plan to build on the open space by Kensington Park. This space is valued open space - it is part of the park. Voters have shown their strong preference to keep this as open, unbuilt-upon space.

Date: 05/02/2017 [01:27:18 AM CDT]
From: Sylvia Elsbury <sylviaelsbury@yahoo.com>
To: fire@kensingtonfire.org
Cc: Nina Harmon <nina.harmon@gmail.com>, Don Dommer <don@dondommer.com>, Janice Kosel <janicekosel@gmail.com>, coupedeville36@comcast.net
Subject: Fire district eyes Kensington park land for new public safety building?

Dear Ms. Navallier:

I was shocked and dismayed to hear that you have floated the idea of somehow gaining control of park land in Kensington for a new building. Is this true?

I have been a loyal supporter of the Fire District, displaying the "thank you, firefighters sign" and defending the District when it is attacked by Karl Kruger et al. I was delighted to meet Chief Maples at the midsummer public meeting last year when the citizens' ad hoc committee made a key presentation. (At that meeting, I spoke out against takeover of the Fire District by the KPPCSD.) I welcomed a firefighter who visited my neighborhood's National Night Out Party last year, and took that opportunity to clear up some misperceptions among residents on my block about the nature of the contracting agreement between our fire district and El Cerrito. In short, I am a friend of the Fire District and would feel terribly betrayed if this extremely unpopular proposal advances any further.

I guarantee this effort, if attempted, will fail. Kensington residents value highly our open space, so very rare in this densely populated community. This idea is a nonstarter. Moreover, the mere discussion of it has the potential to sour relations between the District and this community of residents/taxpayers/voters.

Please take my concerns to heart, and please take them to the Fire Board as well. Like most citizens in town, I want only the best for our critically important Fire Board and firefighters, and this notion of a land grab is so far from the best. It is, simply, the worst.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Elsbury
266 Trinity Ave.
Kensington

Date: 05/02/2017 [01:39:52 PM CDT]
From: Ciara Wood <ciara_woodhaven@sonic.net>
To: Chief Lance Maples <LMaples@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us>
Cc: Brenda Navallier <fire@kensingtonfire.org>, Don Dommer <don@dondommer.com>, Janice Kosel <janicekosel@gmail.com>, "Nina Harmon, Fire Board" <nina.harmon@gmail.com>, "Larry Nagel, Fire Board" <lwn@att.net>, "Joe Deville, Fire Board" <coupedeville36@comcast.net>
Subject: Considering a Fire Station in Kensington Park

Dear Lance,

Over the years that I have known you, I have appreciated your commitment to customer service in our Kensington Community and your willingness to listen to the community. That said, I am deeply disturbed that you could even consider the open-space and hillside above the Arlington as a potential site for a new Fire Station/Public Services Building, especially as the community worked so hard to persuade the Larry Thal Board to buy it and preserve it from development.

As I talk to Kensington folks about the prospect of the Fire District building a new Fire Station in the Park, the response is amazingly similar, as in *"But it's the Park!!!"* This is across the board by any measure of demographics of age or length of residency, for even new folks have already identified with the park.

Right now the Fire Board and our Fire Services Gang, (which would be you and your guys,) are enjoying huge community wide appreciation for your wonderful service to our community. That said, continuing to pursue building in the park could cut through a lot of the Fire Board's political capital in a heart beat. Indeed, the whole matter could explode into another hard fought campaign, which I'd really rather not be fighting or organizing.

It is my hope that the Fire District will take a step back from pursuing our open space for a building. As I told you all privately, we will go to the ramparts over this. I'd greatly prefer that it does not come to that.

My very best to you all, ~Ciara Wood 227 Lake Drive, Kensington 525 7806

Brenda Navellier

From: Lance Maples
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 10:58 AM
To: Brenda Navellier
Subject: FW: New public safety building in Kensington Park?

FYI

From: Kevin PADIAN [<mailto:kpadian@berkeley.edu>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Lance Maples
Cc: don@dondommer.com; Sylvia Hacaj; Len Welsh; Rachelle Sherris Watt; Eileen Nottoli
Subject: New public safety building in Kensington Park?

Dear Chief Maples,

I am not sure whether the idea of situating a new Public Safety Building in Kensington Park has been set out as a trial balloon, but any such proposal will have some important questions to answer -- if, in the first place, residents were to agree to give up this highly prized public space to public safety facilities, which I believe is far from assured.

1. Where exactly in the Park would this new building be situated, and how much space would be required? There are considerable safety concerns with having emergency vehicles rushing out of the Park past children and families engaged in activities at the Youth Hut, the playground, and the library.
2. Why build (a) in the Park, instead of (b) the existing or perhaps enlarged present space or (c) a third property? Has the Fire Board done due diligence to show that the Park really is the best option?
3. What would it cost, and what would be the cost differences, in building at one or another of these three or more choices?
4. How will this building be funded? Will a bond measure be necessary? If so, recall that Measure L went down to defeat for a much more modest sum than projected here, and the Youth Hut also needs upgrading. Residents will want to see that the proposed option is the most cost-worthy as well as the most effective for safety. And they will understand that the projected costs of the building will be doubled by taking a 30-year bond.
5. What other efforts are being made to raise this money from county, state, and federal sources, given Kensington's highly vulnerable position with respect to earthquakes from a major fault zone and fires from two directions?

I ask these questions not with animosity but with concern that the discussions on such a proposal that would occur be adequately informed. Thanks for your consideration.

Kevin Padian
425 Yale

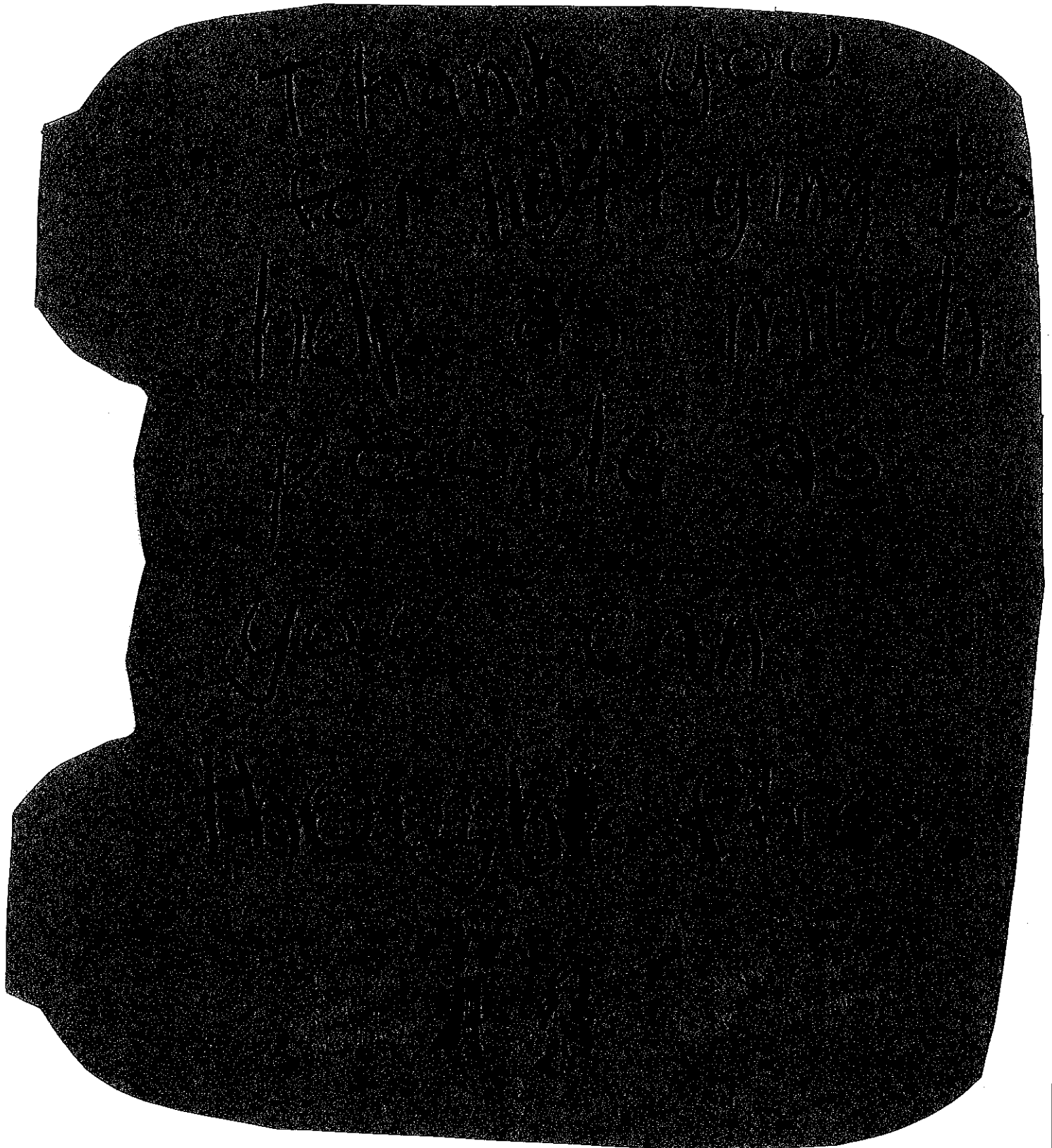
8 April, 2017

Thank You for your
Quick response and
Courteous care!

The Combs
145 Lawson Rd.

Milton, Edna and

John (South Carolina
retired)





Thank you for the stuff you do