

## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** April 22, 2021 / 3:00pm to 5:00pm

**LOCATION:** Via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian

Committee: Lisa Caronna, Kati Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Danielle

Madugo, Paul Moss, David Spath

Staff: GM Bill Hansell

Public: Sue Duncan, Chris Hilliard, Lorika G.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Kevin Padian at 3:07 PM. Roll call was taken and attendees are listed above.

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

This place on the agenda is reserved for comments and inquiries concerning matters that do not otherwise appear on the agenda.

a. There was no public comment.

#### 3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

Items listed below are consent items, which are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. Reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent item designations to the various items have been received and considered. 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. (Supporting material)

- **a.** Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of March 25, 2021 (Approve)
  - Paul Moss noted one correction that he suggested Hal Graboske give a report on the role of KARO/ECHO in Emergency Preparedness, not CERT.

**MOTION:** Moss/Nagel: To adopt consent items.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

Motion passed.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

#### a. Continued Items from Previous Meeting

- Suggested priorities for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (supp info)
  - 1. Kevin mentioned that the district website needs a lot of work. It just needs to be more navigable and organized differently, as EPC members have pointed out.
  - 2. Larry mentioned that the first priority for the Emergency Priority Coordinator should be to make the public aware of the evacuation plan.
  - 3. Joe Grupalo stated that the plan is in place. Be aware of CWS and know several routes out. The Zonehaven zones are in place, and Kensington is way ahead of the game.
  - 4. Paul Moss mentioned that very few people he has spoken with have any idea what the evacuation procedure is. People do not know about the polygon plan and really don't know about the evacuation plan.
  - 5. Kevin noted that the website is the place to go for information. Eventually we will also be able to do neighborhood meetings.
  - 6. Lisa Caronna stated that the plan is that we have no plan. Lisa thinks the role of the EPC Coordinator is to inform people about what to do in case of a wildfire.
  - 7. Joe Grupalo noted that residents can visit the website community.zonehaven.com and find out exactly what zone they are in and what the status of that zone is.
  - Joe Grupalo stated that the County CWS had partnered with him
    to contact people by putting door hangers on resident's doors.
     CWS has designed the door hangers and Joe has quotes and is
    awaiting the budget process.
  - 9. Kevin noted that KFPD has money in the budget to assist with

Peter Guerrero joined the meeting at this point.

- 10. Katie Gluck noted that neighboring towns have had drills and she wants us to have a drill as well.
- ii. Refrigerator magnets project (supp info)
  - 1. Kevin reviewed his quest for purchasing refrigerator magnets. Kevin thanked everyone for editing the text and has obtained quotes for the magnets. The cost should be about \$ 3,000.
- iii. Emergency Radio Program
  - 1. Kevin Padian asked Katie Gluck to comment on the Emergency Radios. Katie stressed the necessity for providing radios to high-risk residents. Katie noted the difficulty in determining who

- the high risk residents are. Katie stated that the Police Department is working on establishing a list of high risk residents.
- 2. Larry Nagel noted that Santa Rosa is giving out radios preprogrammed to the Santa Rosa alert frequencies. That program is very successful.
- 3. Katie Gluck added that Santa Rosa has given 500 radios.
- 4. Paul Moss noted that about Santa Rosa gave radios to 12,000 people in Santa Rosa. That translates to about 175-200 radios costing about \$8,750.
- 5. Joe Grupalo noted that NOAA alerts would be county wide, not local. Joe said that MOFD is working on a low altitude satellite system for alerting people. This would allow issuing alerts over an FM band radio.
- 6. Larry Nagel noted that he thought a satellite system would eliminate the need for a siren system and asked if we could get more information.
- 7. Paul Moss asked if NOAA will be issuing regional alerts for fires.
- 8. Peter Guerrero noted that even cell phones can be programmed to receive FM radio stations. Commercial FM radio stations should not be overlooked as an alerting tool.
- 9. Peter Liddell noted that in 2020 the NOAA alert came out for the lightning storm. Kevin noted that he also received the NOAA alert for that lightning storm.
- iv. Proposed items for the next edition of the *Fireplug* (supp info)
  - 1. Kevin Padian thanked everyone for the items for the Fireplug. Bill also thanked everyone and noted he will be gathering the information together. Kevin stressed that the information in the Fireplug needs to be tailored to Kensington rather than generic fire prevention material.

#### b. Priorities for informing the public about Emergency Preparedness

- i. Kevin Padian noted we need to work on evacuation, house hardening, organizing neighborhoods into firesafe communities, and fuel reduction.
- ii. Lisa Caronna noted that we also have to worry about earthquakes, and that is also part of Emergency Preparedness.
- iii. Larry Nagel noted that there is an OFSC webinar on Earthquake Preparedness on April 29.
- iv. Joe Grupalo agreed on not forgetting the Hayward fault. Top priorities are water storage, cash on hand, just surviving until FEMA arrives.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CWS Alert Drill May 2 and next steps toward a full Evacuation Drill and Evacuation Plan for Kensington
  - i. Joe Grupalo covered the CWS Alert Drill. The drill will be on May 2 at 8 AM. The Alert Drill will start with four zones in Kensington, five zones at

- 8:10, and five zones at 8:20. The drill will be over by 8:30 and all residents will be encouraged to fill out a survey about the drill.
- ii. The full evacuation drill will be a joint effort between the Police Department and the Fire Department
- iii. Lorika G. suggested that the committee comes up with a next date for a CWS alert drill. The community will soon begin to wonder whether their signup still works.
- iv. Chris Hilliard stated that we should have the signs by the library and the gas station a week before the test.

#### b. Presentation by Sue Duncan, Make El Cerrito Firesafe

i. Sue Duncan is the co-founder along with her husband, Paul, of Make El Cerrito Fire Safe. They started MECFS and first spoke before the El Cerrito City Council in September 2018. Their group is a neighborhood group with 14 members on the Steering Committee, 7-8 of which are active right now. Their website is located at:

http://www.makeelcerritofiresafe.com

- ii. They have an of about 150 residents, mostly El Cerrito but a few from Kensington. and the e-mail address is ecfiresafe@gmail.com. They send out infrequent e-mails concerning wildfire issues, links on how to harden homes, better vegetation practices, preparedness for PSPS, red flag days, evacuation and more. Later today they will be sending one out concerning the CWS drill on May 2. They will send a reminder a week from tomorrow.
- iii. When MECFS started, they were mainly concerned with the very unkempt eucalyptus stand closest to us in HNA, Hillside Natural Area. HNA is El Cerrito's approximately 102-acre open space that runs across the hill from just south of Moeser to north of Potrero. Within it are 4 stands of mostly unkempt, raggedy eucalyptus with underbrush, hanging and fallen bark and poison oak. Over the decades, the city has allowed the trees to reproduce so that now there are many young trees of varying heights which as they are located on steep slopes, form ladders to the crowns. And now with the disease that is killing acacia and eucalyptus beside the oaks and pines, it is more important than ever to deal with these trees. For over a year, we have been watching the trees in the quarry grove, the grove that runs up on the north side of Moeser, looking sicker and sicker. The grove that is north of Potrero, is not looking too healthy, either. It is time for the state and federal governments to help finance the removal of these trees.
- iv. At a meeting last week, it was stated that to remove the dead and dying eucalyptus in the almost-200 square miles of EBRPD land would take close to \$1 Billion. Currently much of the Cal Fire grants and other state wildfire money goes to southern California and areas that have SRAs close to areas with disadvantaged communities. Not very much

- goes to areas such as the East Bay where most of it is LRA's and non-disadvantaged.
- v. Three MECFS members are now on the recently created legislative subcommittee of the Oakland Fire Safe Council. This committee is tracking the over 50 bills dealing with various aspects of wildfire that are currently in various stages of both the state senate and assembly. They keep a frequently updated chart with bill number, author or authors, main topic, where it currently is, dates of discussion in which committee and which member is following it. They have spoken with Assembly Member Wicks staff about one of them and are arranging a meeting with Senator Skinner's staff. One of our members on the committee has ties to Sacramento and a legislative analyst from a former career and so knows how to be heard. They send in written comments with suggested wording changes to the authors to try and get the east bay included where appropriate.
- vi. Sue is a member of a committee that is trying to form a JPA, Joint Powers Authority for Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The committee is composed of members from the Claremont Canyon Conservancy, the OFSC and the 94803 Emergency Preparedness Alliance, which covers the El Sobrante/Richmond area. This JPA would make consistent, science-based vegetation management plans across the East Bay Hills and use various funding sources including grants to carry out the plans. Currently, we have 20 elected officials from Alameda and Contra Costa counties, the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Dublin, Fremont, Hayward, Hercules, EBRPD and Assembly Member Wicks all endorsing the concept. We also have 20 community organizations including the Sierra Club, endorsing it. The committee has raised enough funds through a few grants and private donations to hire consultants Placeworks to guide us through the process. If your committee or any of you would like more information about the JPA, I will be glad to send you information. Jon Kaufman of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy and Sue Piper of OFSC would be happy to meet with you on a zoom meeting to discuss it, too.
- vii. The MECFS continuously advocates for no reduction in fire or other emergency services that are provided by the El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Dept. With El Cerrito in dire financial straits, it seems to be a constant battle. We are encouraging the FD to simplify and strengthen the vegetation management standards. Currently on the FD website, there are 4 documents with the standards, some of which are conflicting. We feel that there should be one document plus the check list with stronger and clearer standards. We have spent a significant amount of time working with the Boy Scouts to remove the eucalyptus from Camp Herms. They did agree that the trees should go. We almost had an agreement with them that we would raise funds to remove them as funds allowed. Unfortunately, we had to back out over a disagreement with when they would receive the funds due to the Scouts being in

- bankruptcy. Close to 20 eucalyptus have been removed from the property recently though, mostly due to the trees either dead or dying, causing unsafe conditions.
- viii. The MECFS has recently come under the 501c3 umbrella of the EC Community Foundation and will be able to raise tax deductible funds for fire prevention projects. They continue to advocate for signed evacuation routes in El Cerrito. However, Battalion Chief Grupalo just noted that the evacuation plan is in place. The MECFS asks that standards for vegetation along these routes be tightened and enforced, as well as limited parking on the narrower streets on Red Flag Days. The ECPD, ECFD and EC Public Works began work on this but the project has slowed due to the financial crisis that EC is currently facing and the covid SIP.
- ix. Several MECFS members have a meeting scheduled with Michael Booker, the Emergency Preparedness/Safety Consultant for WCCUSD. We are very concerned that the district does not have a viable plan to evacuate students from Madera Elementary, just off the Arlington or Kensington Hilltop School in the event of a wildfire being blown in from Wildcat Canyon toward either school. How will the students get out if necessary? Will the teachers be out with them on Arlington, flagging down fleeing residents asking them to take the students? We also would like to see evacuation plans for Harding, Fairmont and Koromatsu schools as they might need evacuating depending on which way the wind is blowing the embers ahead of the fire. Currently, there is no legislation or education code that requires schools in the VHFHSZ to have evacuation plans. We are also trying to schedule an appointment with the principal of Madera School. We do have a few ideas about evacuating the students. On red flag days, have busses at the schools. I'm sure this wouldn't happen due to finances. Perhaps each student would be required to have at least 7 different parents that have permission to take the student. Vet neighbors and have them on the list to be able to take students. It was suggested that maybe the busses on San Pablo Ave could come up the hill to pick up the students, but would the bus driver want to drive into an approaching fire? And what about the passengers on the bus?
- x. The MECFS has a Firewise USA neighborhood with 93 homes. We were approved for it in December of 2019. Unfortunately, just as we were getting ready to roll it out, the SIP hit. We did mail our letters of introduction along with 2 Firewise pamphlets but we had a very poor response. We're hoping in the next few weeks to get things going again, hopefully with a little help from the FD. It would be nice to have a better response. Our main purpose is to educate the residents about what they can do to lessen the possibility of their house igniting from either a wildfire or a fire in a neighbor's house. House hardening and vegetation management are the key areas with action. Paul and Sue attend each EC City Council meeting and the Urban Forest Committee meetings.

- xi. MECFS has representatives on Supervisor Gioia's Wildcat Canyon group.
- xii. Lastly, MECFS have a resolution stating that wildfire prevention and preparedness is a top priority of El Cerrito. We will be trying to have the EC City Council adopt it as the cities of Berkeley and Oakland did.
- xiii. Sue noted that the Tahoe group has issued a lot of information on home hardening. Danielle Madugo noted that she has seen some of their webinars and has distributed the information to her CERT group.
- xiv. Danielle Madugo reported that the Hilltop Elementary School is organizing an evacuation plan. They are planning on having KPD Officer Harms to help formulate the plan. The hope is to have a full-scale evacuation drill at the beginning of school in September. Sue Duncan mentioned that she will mention this at her meeting with Michael Booker, the Emergency Preparedness/Safety Consultant for WCCUSD.
- xv. Joe Grupalo noted that Red Flags are more regional, and we should focus in on Diablo Wind day.
- xvi. Peter Guerrero asked Sue Duncan about what other issues she thinks the EPC should be working more closely with her group.
- xvii. Sue replied she could use one more person on the legislative committee. She also would like to see more help in the fuel reduction efforts in the Hillside Nature Area. A fire here would greatly impede evacuation along Moeser Avenue.
- c. Should the KFPD participate in the AC-CCC Wildfire Regional Protection Plan? (supp info) Download the slides from the kickoff meeting here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/1ue4lacbi7xncje/Stakeholder%20Meeting%201-%20Introductions%20%20%26%20Existing%20Conditions%204.7.pdf?dl=0

- i. Kevin described the Wildfire Regional Protection Plan
- ii. Larry Nagel gave an overview of the RPP. He described the CWPP for Contra Costa County. Larry noted that CalFire is not all that familiar with an RPP and is more familiar with CWPP. The RPP is more intended for regional parks and ranch land. Larry proposed that he would attend a few more meetings but that he would not commit us to

being on the RPP Task Force.

- iii. Dave Spath noted that we need to keep up with the RPP since it includes regional fire breaks.
- iv. Danielle Madugo noted that East Bay Regional Parks District is a significant stakeholder in this effort, and we should keep up.

#### d. Update to Cooper-Nagel letter to EBRPD about progress on fuel reduction

- i. Larry presented history of the 2020 letter to EBRPD by Cortis Cooper. This was followed up with a public comment by Larry and Cortis at an EBRPD Board meeting. Larry thinks it is time to create a 2021 update letter to the EBRPD Board and make another presentation to the EBRPD board.
- ii. Bill Hansell mentioned that the next level would be a resolution that is more formal and has more impact.
- iii. Kevin noted that several communities acting in unison would be more effective in prodding the EBRPD into action.
- iv. Peter Guerrero noted that when the Kensington Neighbors for Wildfire Prevention was formed Tilden Park was their main focus. The whole issue is the fuel load in Tilden. The EBRPD seemed to have a plan in place but the plan was too slow and had insufficient resources.
- v. Peter noted that this issue is exactly where a JPA can be helpful because it leverages several communities.
- vi. Peter also suggested that Kensington could also approach EBRPD with Kensington-specific projects that we could fund.
- vii. Paul Moss noted that we have to show some respect to EBRPD because they are trying and doing as best they can.

# e. Should the KFPD participate in the 2021 State Fire Assistance Competitive Grant Program? (supp info) Link to the program is here:

https://cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-and-funding/21-sfa-grant-program/

- Kevin Padian talked about the grant program from the US Forest Service. The applications are due by June 15, 2021. There is a mandatory one-for-on cost share. Kevin stated that this is exactly what Diablo Fire Safe Council does and Kevin is wary of competing.
- ii. Larry Nagel stated that there is very little time, and this is something we could pursue if we had a grant writer in place.
- iii. David Spath does not like the idea of competing with DFSC. The iming doesn't work well with no grant write and no project in the works.
- iv. Peter Guerrero noted that there is never a good time for these opportunities. One possibility would be to apply for a grant for a herd of goats to help in fuel reduction on the ridgeline.
- v. Bill Hansell noted that we may have our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and our Grant Writer on board by mid-June.

- vi. Lisa noted that these grants usually only apply to areas that are under our jurisdiction.
- vii. Danielle Madugo noted that we already have money in the budget for chipping and a grant could free up that money for other mitigation efforts
- viii. Larry Nagel noted that according to Cheryl Miller at DFSC the goat herds are booked for 2021 and filling up rapidly for 2022.
- ix. Danielle also asked about applying for a grant for fuel reduction along evacuation routes.

#### f. Reports from Committee Members (2:06:50)

- i. Kevin commented that there will be a Town Hall meeting scheduled by the KPOA we have two meetings coming in the near future. The first meeting will be about increasing the zoning density limits in Kensington and about the tree ordinance in Kensington.
- ii. Kevin noted that the signs for the cemetery evacuation signs will be reinstalled at the junction of Sunset and Arlington. Two new signs will be installed at the cemetery entrance.
- iii. Paul Moss is trying to post regularly a short note on emergency preparedness in Nextdoor and in the Outlook. Paul requested that anyone who reads Nextdoor should "like" his article so that it stays current.
- iv. Peter Guererro noted the dangers of ember driven fires that can be ignited by a wildfire miles away. This underscores the need for rapid evacuation.
- v. Peter Guerrero noted that the Vollmer Peak camera is still inoperative. There is a new camera on West Summit near the intersection of Arlington and Moeser.
- vi. Danielle commented that at the CERT Area Coordinators meeting that the Vollmer Peak camera just needs to be connected to the wildfire system.
- Vii. Danielle Madugo gave an update on the Hilltop Elementary School.

  The evacuation drill will be held at the start of the school year.
- viii. Chris Hilliard commented that Social Media, and Facebook and Nextdoor in particular, are especially important. Chris said that the El Cerrito/Kensington CERT Facebook page has had 1,200 hits. Chris stressed that we need to keep stressing the need for CWS signups.

#### 6. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS and ADJOURNEMENT

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on May 27, 2021 at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM by Kevin Padian.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on May 27, 2021.



## Appendix A

# Text of Make El Cerrito Fire Safe (MECFS) Presentation

Sue Duncan

KFPD EPC Meeting

April 22, 2021

## Good afternoon,

Thank you for inviting me to speak.

I'm Sue Duncan, co-founder along with my husband, Paul, of Make El Cerrito Fire Safe.

We started MECFS and first spoke before the EC City Council in September, 2018. Our group is a neighborhood one. We have 14 members on our Steering Committee, 7-8 of which are active right now.

We have a website, <u>www.makeelcerritofiresafe.com</u> all one word, lower case. I have an email list of about 150 residents, mostly EC but a few from Kensington.

ecfiresafe@gmail.com Over it I send out infrequent emails concerning wildfire issues, links on how to harden homes, better vegetation practices, preparedness for PSPS, red flag days, evacuation and more. Later today I will be sending one out concerning the CWS drill on May 2. I will send a reminder a week from tomorrow. I always encourage everyone to register for the CWS with the link to do so. If any of you would like to be added to my email list, send me an email. I always send my emails out bcc.

When we started our group, we were mainly concerned with the very unkempt eucalyptus stand closest to us in HNA, Hillside Natural Area. HNA is El Cerrito's approximately 102 acre open space that runs across the hill from just south of Moeser to north of Potrero. Within it are 4 stands of mostly unkempt, raggedy eucalyptus with underbrush, hanging and fallen bark and poison oak. Over the decades, the city has allowed the trees to reproduce so that now there are many young trees of varying heights which as they are located on steep slopes, form ladders to the crowns. And now with the disease that is killing acacia and eucalyptus beside the oaks

and pines, it is more important than ever to deal with these trees. For over a year, we have been watching the trees in the quarry grove, the grove that runs up on the north side of Moeser, looking sicker and sicker. The grove that is north of Potrero, is not looking too healthy, either. Have you noticed how the trees on Albany Hill are looking?

With all of these sick and dying trees, it is time for the state and federal governments to help finance the removal of these trees. At a meeting last week, it was stated that to remove the dead and dying eucalyptus in the almost-200 square miles of EBRPD land would take close to a \$billion.

Currently much of the Cal Fire grants and other state wildfire money goes to southern California and areas that have SRAs close to areas with disadvantaged communities. Not very much goes to areas such as the east bay where most of it is LRS's and non-disadvantaged. So, to try and remedy this, three of our members are now on the recently created legislative subcommittee of the Oakland Fire Safe Council.

This committee is tracking the over 50 bills dealing with various aspects of wildfire that are currently in various stages of both the state senate and assembly. They keep a frequently-updated chart with bill number, author or authors, main topic, where it currently is, dates of discussion in which committee and which member is following it. They have spoken with Assembly Member Wicks staff about one of them and are arranging a meeting with Senator Skinner's staff. One of our members on the committee has ties to Sacramento and a legislative analyst from a former career and so knows how to be heard. They send in written comments with suggested wording changes to the authors to try and get the east bay included where appropriate.

I am a member of a committee that is trying to form a JPA, Joint Powers Authority for Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The committee is composed of members from the Claremont Canyon Conservancy, the OFSC and the 94803 Emergency Preparedness Alliance, which covers the El Sobrante/Richmond area. This JPA would make consistent, science-based vegetation management plans across the East Bay Hills and use various funding sources including grants to carry out the plans. Currently, we have 20 elected officials from Alameda and Contra Costa counties, the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Dublin, Fremont, Hayward, Hercules, EBRPD and Assembly Member Wicks all endorsing the concept. We also have 20 community organizations including the Sierra Club, endorsing it.

The committee has raised enough funds through a few grants and private donations to hire consultants Placeworks to guide us through the process. If your committee or any of you would like more information about the JPA, I will be glad to send you information. Jon Kaufman of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy and Sue Piper of OFSC would be happy to meet with you on a zoom meeting to discuss it, too.

We continuously advocate for no reduction in fire or other emergency services that are provided by the El Cerrito/ Kensington Fire Dept. Right now with El Cerrito in dire financial straits, it seems to be a constant battle.

We are encouraging the FD to to simplify and strengthen the vegetation management standards. Currently on the FD website, there are 4 documents with the standards, some of which are conflicting. We feel that there should be one document plus the check list with stronger and clearer standards. We have spent a significant amount of time working with the Boy Scouts to remove the eucalyptus from Camp Herms. They did agree that the trees should go. We almost had an agreement with them that we would raise funds to remove them as funds allowed. Unfortunately, we had to back out over a disagreement with when they would receive the funds due to the Scouts being in bankruptcy. Close to 20 eucalyptus have been removed from the property recently though, mostly due to the trees either dead or dying, causing unsafe conditions.

We have recently come under the 501c3 umbrella of the EC Community Foundation. Now we will be able to raise tax-deductible funds for fire prevention projects.

We continue to advocate for signed evacuation routes in EC. However, with the comments just made by Battalion Chief Grupalo, I understand that this won't happen and that the evacuation plan is in place. Along with that, we ask that standards for vegetation along these routes be tightened and enforced. We are also asking for limited parking on the narrower streets on Red Flag Days. The ECPD, ECFD and EC Public Works began work on this but the project has slowed due to the financial crisis that EC is currently facing and the covid SIP.

Several of us have a meeting scheduled with Michael Booker, the Emergency Preparedness/Safety Consultant for WCCUSD. We are very concerned that the district does not have a viable plan to evacuate students from Madera Elementary, just off the Arlington or Kensington Hilltop School in the event of of a wildfire being blown in from Wildcat Canyon toward either school. How will the students get out if necessary. Will the teachers be out with them on Arlington, flagging down fleeing residents asking them to take the

students? We also would like to see evacuation plans for Harding, Fairmont and Koromatsu schools as they might need evacuating depending on which way the wind is blowing the embers ahead of the fire. Currently, there is no legislation or education code that requires schools in the VHFHSZ to have evacuation plans. We are also trying to schedule an appointment with the principal of Madera School.

We do have a few ideas about evacuating the students. On red flag days, have busses at the schools. I'm sure this wouldn't happen due to finances. Perhaps each student would be required to have at least 7 different parents that have permission to take the student. Vet neighbors and have them on the list to be able to take students. It was suggested that maybe the busses on San Pablo Ave could come up the hill to pick up the students but would the bus driver want to drive in to an approaching fire? And what about the passengers on the bus?

We have a FirewiseUSA neighborhood with 93 homes. We were approved for it in December of 2019. Unfortunately, , just as we were getting ready to roll it out, the SIP hit. We did mail our letters of introduction along with 2 Firewise pamphlets but we had a very poor response. We're hoping in the next few weeks to get things going again, hopefully with a little help from the FD. It would be nice to have a better response. Our main purpose is to educate the residents about what they can do to lessen the possibility of their house igniting from either a wildfire or a fire in a neighbor's house. House hardening and vegetation management are the key areas with action.

Paul and I attend each EC City Council meeting and the Urban Forest Committee meetings.

We have representatives on Supervisor Gioia's Wildcat Canyon group.

Lastly, we have a resolution stating that wildfire prevention and preparedness is a top priority of El Cerrito. We will be trying to have the EC City Council adopt it as the cities of Berkeley and Oakland did. Thank you.



# Appendix B

Toward an East Bay Wildfire Prevention Vegetation Management Agency

Sue Duncan

KFPD EPC Meeting

April 22, 2021

### **Toward an East Bay Wildfire Prevention Vegetation Management Agency**

It is time for a new, more effective, regional approach if the East Bay Hills are to be safe from future wildfires. This is in support of using the Joint Powers Authority process to address the wildfire threat posed by inadequate vegetation management in the hills of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Today, local government agencies are responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires in urbanized areas and counties are responsible for unincorporated areas. But wildfires cross jurisdictional boundaries involving multiple cities and counties.

Wildfires move at hurricane speeds and force, with winds from 60 to 100 mph, fast enough to jump huge freeways. It took only one hour for the Berkeley Oakland Tunnel Fire to move from the Berkeley Hills across the Highway 24 freeway to destroy homes in the Upper Rockridge area of Oakland. To the north, it took only four hours for the Tubbs Fire to move from the Napa Valley to Santa Rosa. To the south, the Thomas Fire moved from Ventura to Santa Barbara, jumping a 15-lane freeway. Once started, extinguishing wildfires often is no longer possible, leaving evacuation as the only answer. Evacuation times are often measured in minutes, or less.

Since they are impossible to stop once they get going, preventing wildfires becomes our only choice. In Alameda County alone, there are 14 separate cities. If vegetation in our area is to be well managed to reduce the threat of wildfire, the necessary expertise, workforce and financial resources must be assembled over a broad enough area to be effective. Local agencies with all their present responsibilities unfortunately lack sufficient breadth and resources to adequately address the problem. Coordinating vegetation management among all the East Bay local public agencies is an impossible challenge without a mechanism to lead that effort.

Just as we have special districts in the Bay Area to manage air quality, water quality, and regional planning and transportation, it is time to create a wildfire prevention district to manage vegetation and dramatically reduce the fuel that causes the spread of wildfires in our wildland urban interface. Local government agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa counties can create a joint powers authority to accomplish this.

An East Bay Wildfire Prevention and Vegetation Management Agency would

- (1) Develop a plan to reduce the most flammable wildlands vegetation in the East Bay Hills to the maximum extent feasible and to replace it with wildfire resistant vegetation where appropriate.
- (2) The plan would protect sensitive wildlife habitats and native plant landscapes.

- (3) The plan would include a "Defensible Space" program to aid owners of private property with information resources to manage vegetation on their properties.
- (4) The plan would include a "Home Hardening" program to advise homeowners, schools and commercial property owners on how their structures can be protected from wildfires.
- 5) Raise funds by applying for state and federal grants, preparing tax measures for voter approval and other means permitted by law.
- 6) Implement the plan by retaining sufficient staff and equipment and/or by contracting with others to remove the most flammable vegetation in wildland areas and to implement the public information programs for defensible space and home hardening.

An added benefit of a district that addresses this problem may be that the current difficulties many property owners are facing with either cancellation of their homeowner insurance policies or huge rate increases due to increased fire risks would be lessened.

#### Endorsements of an East Bay Regional Wildfire Joint Protection Agency as of April 16, 2021:

#### **Elected Officials**

Jurisdiction	Agency/Municipality	Individual	Role
California	State Assembly	Buffy Wicks	Assemblymember, District 15
Alameda	Board of Supervisors	Keith Carson	Supervisor, District 5
Alameda	Albany	Rochelle Nason	City Councilmember
Alameda	Berkeley	Jesse Arreguin	Mayor
Alameda	Berkeley	Lori Droste	Vice Mayor, City Councilmember
Alameda	Berkeley	Susan Wengraf	City Councilmember
Alameda	Dublin	Shawn Kumagai	City Councilmember
Alameda	Fremont	Vinnie Bacon	Former City Councilmember
Alameda	Hayward	Aisha Wahab	City Councilmember
Alameda	Oakland	Libby Schaaf	Mayor
Alameda	Oakland	Sheng Thao	Mayor Pro Tem, City Councilmember
Alameda	Oakland	Dan Kalb	City Councilmember
Contra Costa	Board of Supervisors	John Gioia	Supervisor, District 1
Contra Costa	El Cerrito	Paul Fadelli	Mayor
Contra Costa	El Cerrito	Gabriel Quinto	Mayor Pro Tem, City Councilmember
Contra Costa	El Cerrito	Tessa Rudnick	City Councilmember
Contra Costa	El Cerrito	Greg Lyman	Former Mayor
Contra Costa	El Cerrito	Rochelle Pardue- Okimoto	Former City Councilmember

Contra Costa	Hercules	Tiffany Grimsley	City Councilmember
Regional	East Bay Regional	Dee Rosario	Board Member
	Park District		
Regional	East Bay Regional	Dennis Waespi	Board Member
	Park District		

## **Community Organizations**

Jurisdiction	Agency/Municipality	Organization
Alameda	Berkeley & Oakland	Claremont Canyon Conservancy
Alameda	Berkeley & Oakland	Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association
Alameda	Oakland	Friends of the Montclair RR Trail
Alameda	Oakland	Garber Park Stewards
Alameda	Oakland	Montclair Neighborhood Council
Alameda	Oakland	North Hills Community Association
Alameda	Oakland	Oakland Firefighters IAFF Local 55
Alameda	Oakland	Oakland Firesafe Council
Alameda	Oakland	Oakland Landscape Committee
Alameda	Oakland	Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Assn.
Alameda	Oakland	South Hills Beat 35Y
Contra Costa	El Cerrito	El Cerrito Trail Trekkers
Contra Costa	El Cerrito	Make El Cerrito Fire Safe
Contra Costa	El Sobrante	94803 Emergency Preparedness Alliance
Contra Costa	Kensington	Kensington Neighbors for Wildfire Safety
Contra Costa	Kensington	Kensington Public Safety Council
Contra Costa	Regional	Phreed (Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo, El Sobrante for Equity
		& Diversity)
Contra Costa	Richmond	Richmond Firefighters Local 188
Regional	East Bay Regional	Regional Parks Foundation
	Park District	
Regional	Regional	The Sierra Club

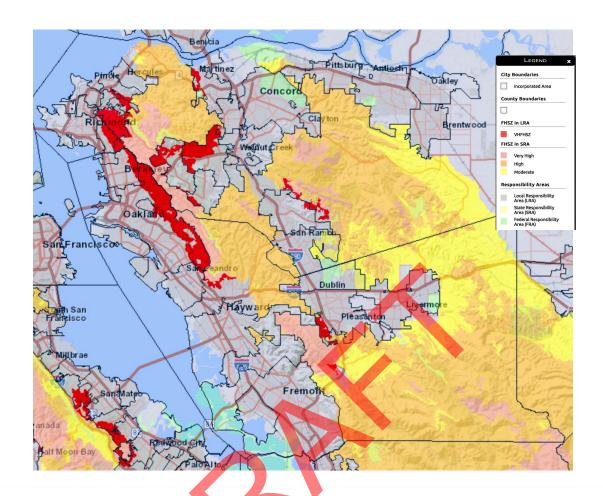
Appendix C

Map for JPA

Sue Duncan

KFPD EPC Meeting

April 22, 2021



# Appendix D

Entities in the East Bay Wildfire Danger Zones

Sue Duncan

KFPD EPC Meeting

April 22, 2021

## **Entities in the East Bay Hills Wildfire Danger Zones**

```
Alameda County
       Berkeley
       Oakland
       Piedmont
       San Leandro
       Hayward
       Union City
       Fremont
       Dublin
       Alameda County representing unincorporated places
              Castro Valley
              Sunol
Contra Costa County
       Pinole
       Richmond
       El Cerrito
       Orinda
       Moraga
       Lafayette
       Contra Costa County representing unincorporated places
              El Sobrante
              Kensington
              East Richmond Heights
              Canyon
Special Districts/Land Owners
       University of California
       East Bay Regional Park District
       East Bay Municipal Water District
       Cal Trans
       Cal Fire
       Fire districts in Contra Costa County
       PG&E
Community Partners
       Firesafe councils and public safety organizations
```

Neighborhood organizations