**Kensington
Emergency Preparedness
Committee's**
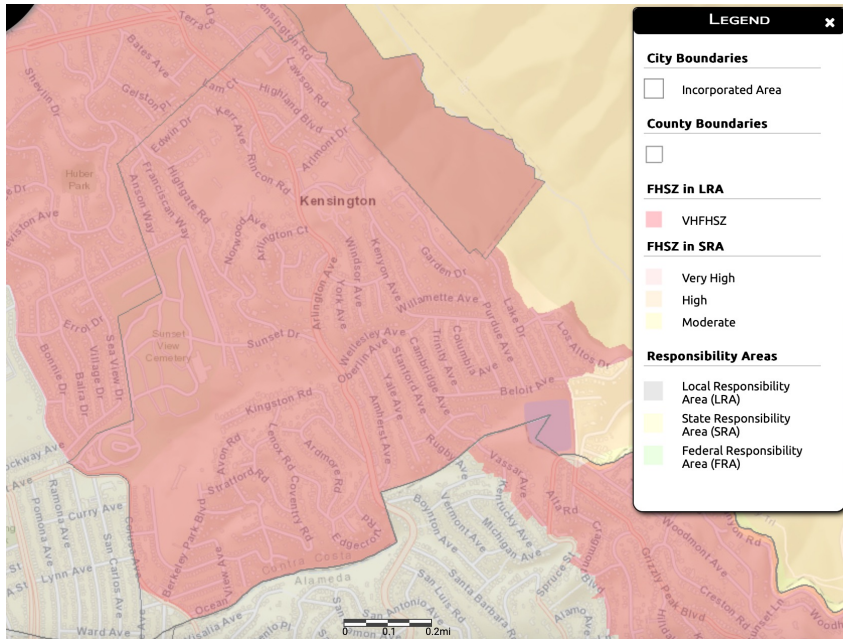
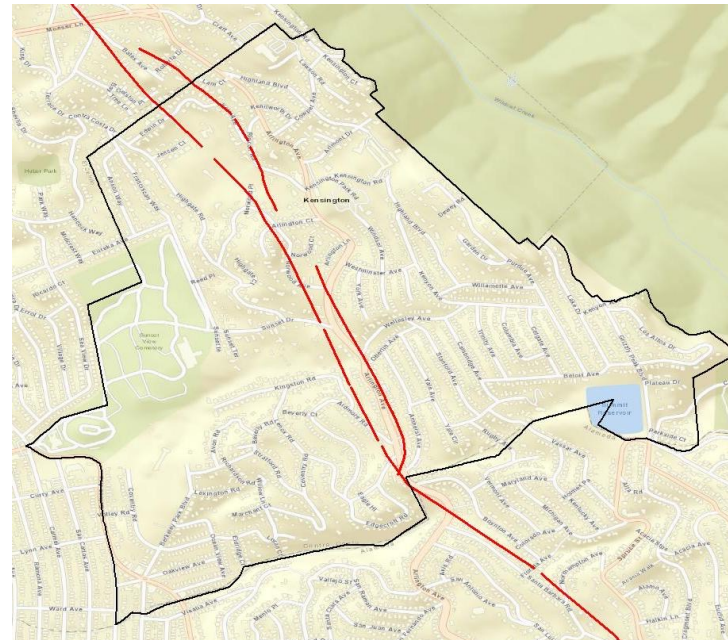# RECOMMENDATION TO KFPD BOARD

Early Warning Systems

Need for Early Warning Communication

- Multiple Forms of Communication Important to Warning Residents
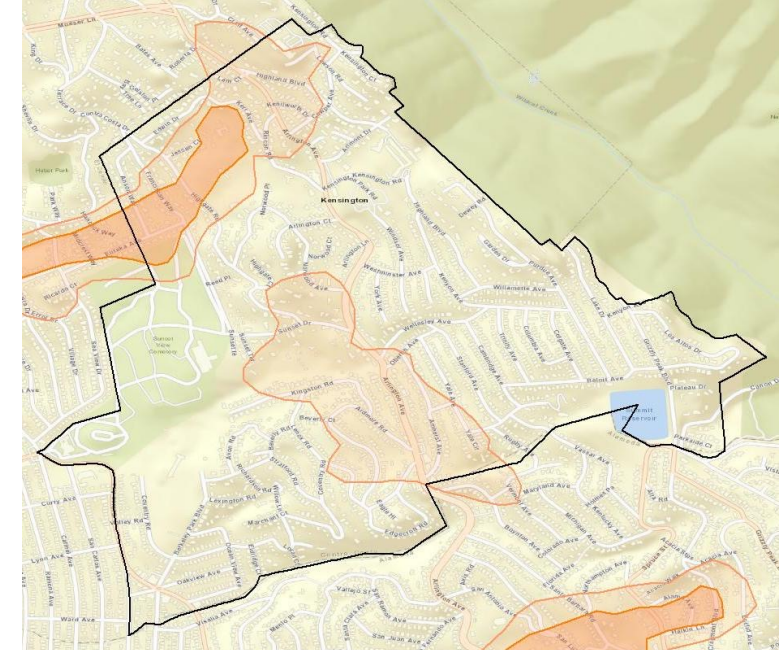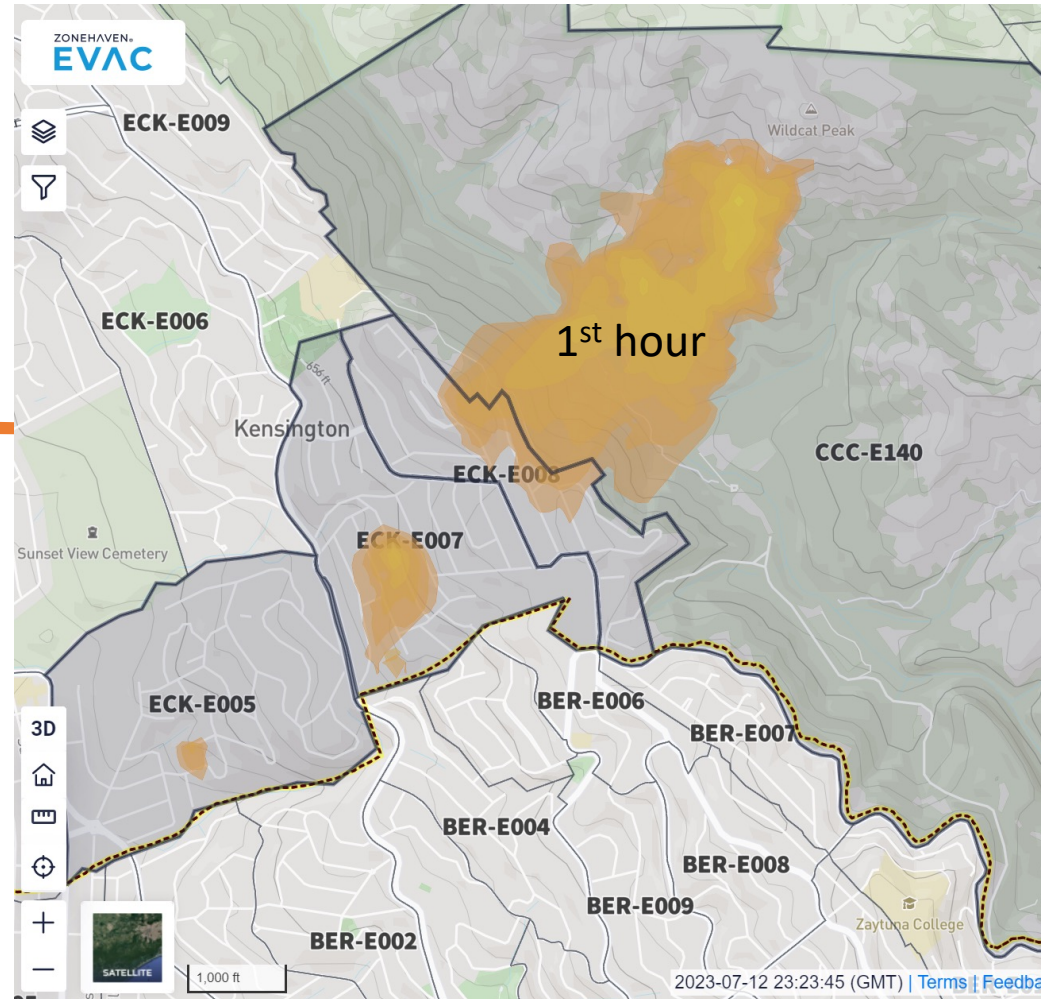- Kensington unique; subject to multiple hazards

WILDFIRE

EARTHQUAKE FAULTS

LANDSLIDES

How fast does Kensington need to be alerted?

Worst case fire simulation modeled in Genasys's Zonehaven software during a Diablo Wind event with ignition starting at the base of Wildcat Peak.

This is a model to provide the first on-scene Incident Commander a better tool to assess where the fire will be at different time intervals. (Thanks to Joe Grupalo, Genasys)

Sources of Early Warning Communication

- ✓ County Community Warning System (CWS)
  - ➤ voice call (cell & landline), text, email notifications

- ✓ Nixle
  - ➤ text and email notifications

- ❑ Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRAD)

What Are **LRAD**s as Opposed to **Sirens**?

Sirens emit tones only; generally understood to mean shelter in place in Contra Costa County

LRADs are communication systems that provide tone and voice messages specific to the hazard via powerful speakers
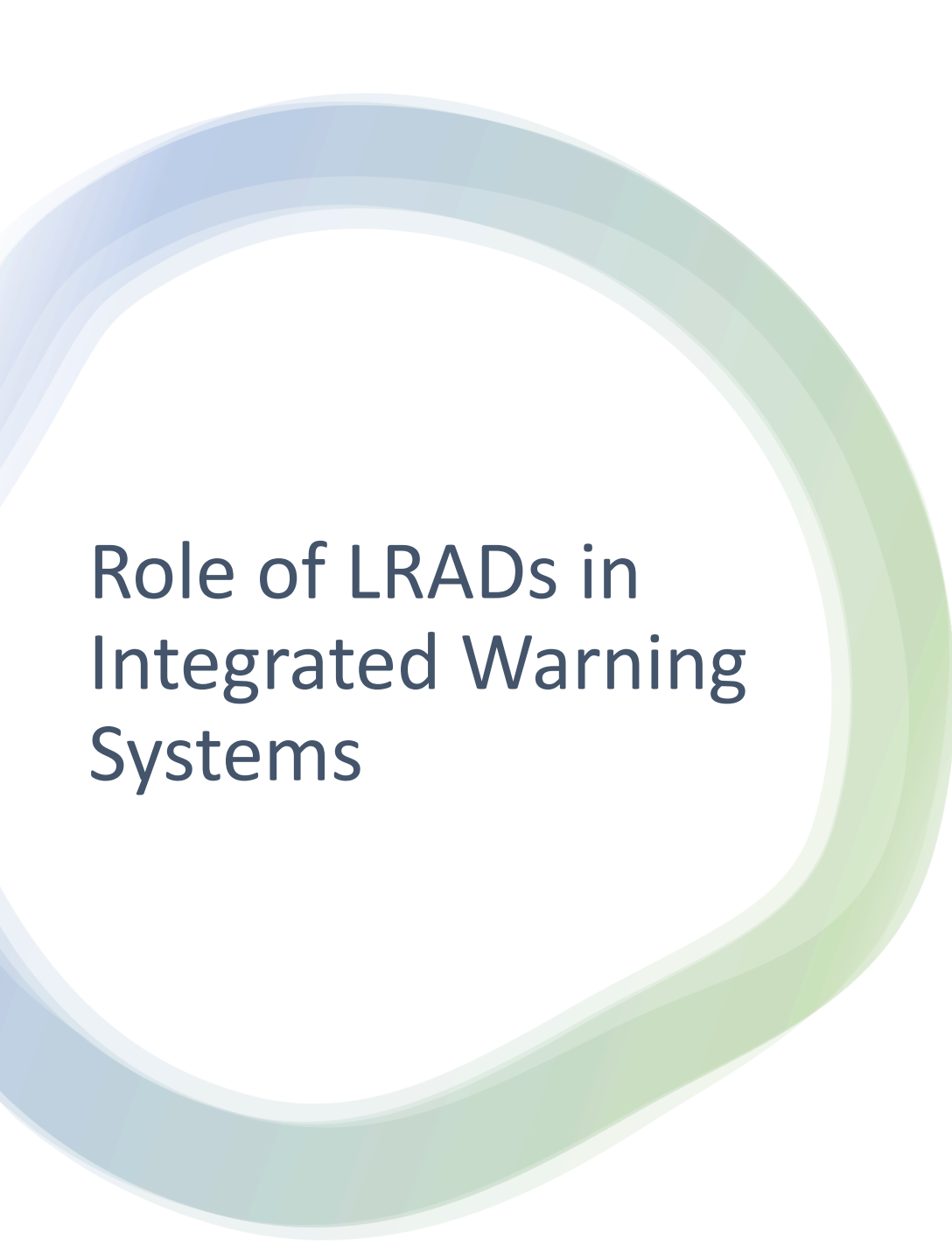
LRADs can be part of an integrated emergency warning system

Examples of LRAD Systems

Examples of LRAD Systems

Role of LRADs in Integrated Warning Systems

❖ Efficiently deliver critical localized safety information during and after an emergency event such as:

- Wildfire: offering evacuation alerts
- Earthquake: post-event safety information such as road closures
- Local Hazardous conditions

❖ Redundancy

- LRADs provide critical safety information to the public if other warning systems fail, e.g., due to lost cell coverage, power outages

Communities with LRADs

❖ Berkeley (similar hazards to us)

❖ Paradise (after failure of their CWS)

❖ Mill Valley/Marin County

❖ Newport Beach

❖ Laguna Beach

- LRAD system used during Emerald Fire in February 2022
- Used in conjunction with Orange County alert system (CWS) and NIXLE alert system
- Positive experience; adjusting system to make communication more efficient

Examples of Costs

❖ **City of Paradise**

- 21 Devices
- Planning Report:
  - $40,000
  - Produced by Genasys
- Installation:
  - Average $138,000 per device
  - Includes permits, fees, annual maintenance and 3-year service agreement
  - Installation contractor: HQE Systems

❖ **City of Berkeley**

- 15 Devices
- Planning and Installation:
  - Average $132,000 per device
  - Includes permits, fees, etc. and 3-year service agreement
  - Used Laguna Beach contract to sole source project to Genasys

Estimating Cost for Kensington

Request for Proposal (RFP) is required

- ❖ Scoping
  - How many LRADs needed to cover Kensington
  - Where are the best locations for LRAD placement

- ❖ Specifications
  - Additions to base system, e.g., battery back-up, solar panels, software

- ❖ Service & Maintenance
  - Agreement with Contractor as per Paradise/Berkeley

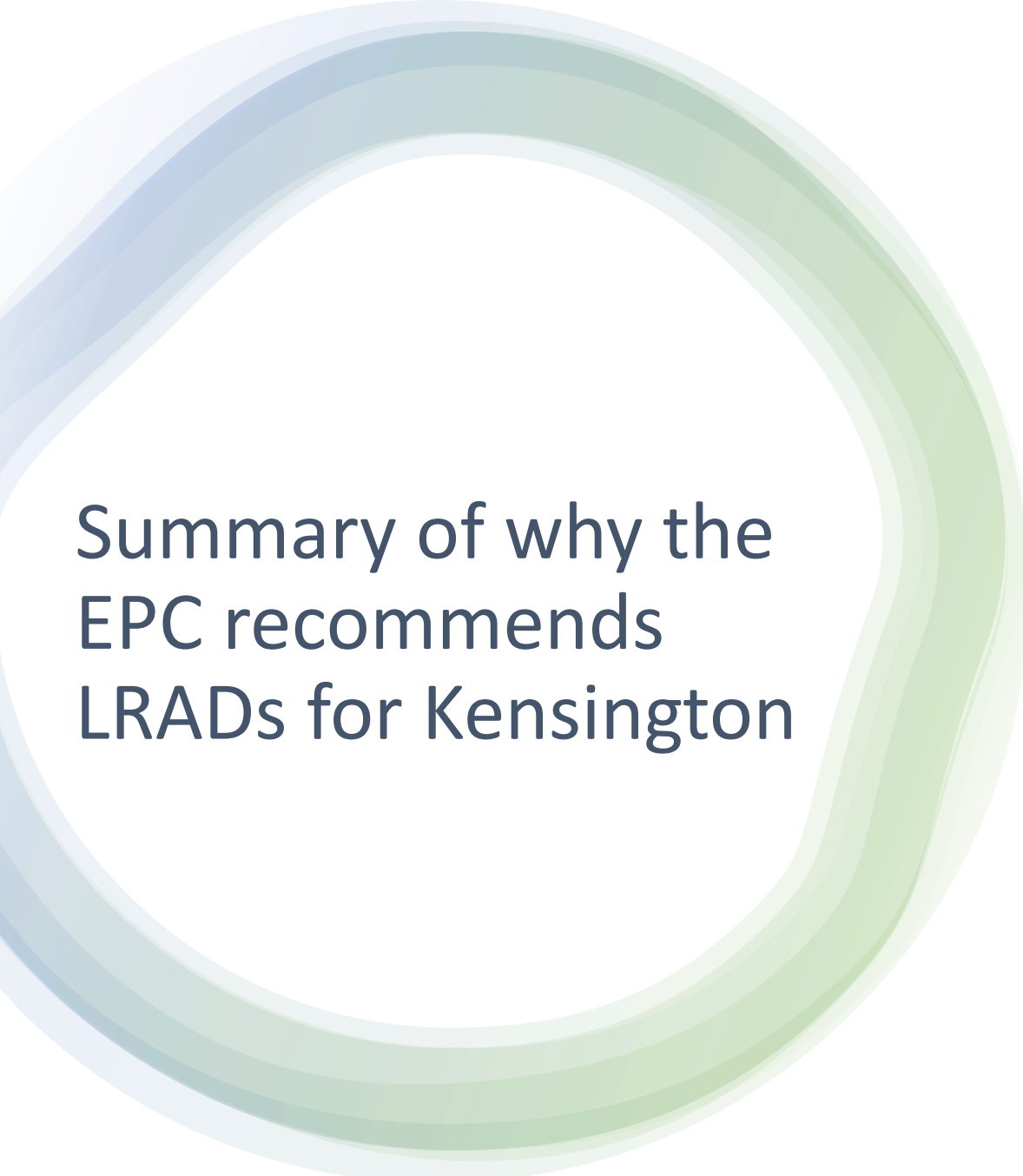# Funding Sources

❖ FEMA Grants: cover 75% of project cost

FEMA grant applications must go through the state as local entities such as special districts are sub-applicants. ***Need an updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to qualify for these grants**

Types of FEMA grant programs
  i.   Hazard Mitigation Grant
  ii. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
  iii. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program

❖ Identify remaining 25% funding

  i.   Cal FIRE grant
  ii. Contra Costa Measure X
  iii. District General Fund allocation

Kensington faces multiple high-risk hazards!

Summary of why the EPC recommends LRADs for Kensington

LRADs

- Complement & expand existing warning systems

- Will function when other systems are down; redundancy

- More flexible in conveying Kensington-specific information

- Reaches more residents than other systems

EPC Recommendations for procurement

- EPC continue to explore process for obtaining LRADs
  - Develop elements of an RFP
    - EPC to research using Paradise example as template; EPC to recommend who should write RFP
  - Identify process for updating Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
    - Previous LHMP developed by ECFD; possible similar process
  - Understand the Cal OES/FEMA subapplication process and grant funding options
    - EPC to research; identify best option(s) and who to write subapplication
- Resident Outreach & Feedback
- Coordinate with County CWS
- Report Back to Board on Timelines and Recommended Action