



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DATE: April 17, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
RE: General Manager's Report
SUBMITTED BY: Tim Barry, Interim General Manager

Highlights of the regular business activities, other special projects, and updates for the District which are not covered in other agenda items are noted below for March/April.

Board Appointment of Dean (Rick) Artis

We immediately notified the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors via email of the board's March 28th appointment of Rick Artis to the vacant seat on the board. We also notified Mr. Jacob Stull, Elections Services Supervisor both via email and via hard copy letter that was mailed of this development. The orientation process for Director Artis continues.

Temporary Fire Station 65

A couple of recent problems were repaired with coordination between myself and Chief Saylor's office. An electrical breaker outage during a storm was checked by a contracted electrician and was operating when weather cleared, so fire personnel will monitor performance going forward. A roll up door to the apparatus bay was accidentally damaged and repaired by a contracted service and is fully operational.

Fiscal Analysis Project with Ridgeline

Work continues on this project, with the district providing information to Ridgeline. Ridgeline's contract with KPPCSD for the project is posted both to their website and ours as is our Letter of Agreement for cost share of the study. Former GM Mary Morris-Mayorga continues on a contract basis with our district through June 2024 to assist with this project and to assist with items relative to the close out of the Public Safety Building Renovation project. As was discussed at the last board meeting, **staff wishes to get direction from the board** on the Ridgeline recommendation that a joint board workshop be scheduled for early April (now perhaps June, if both boards are doing strategic planning in May) so that both boards can discuss a vision of a consolidated agency organization and staffing. With the board's consent we can work with KPPCSD to schedule that meeting in June.

Getting to Know Kensington

I was able to take a tour of our town with Director Watt, including walking the school trail and viewing Tilden Park and Wildcat Canyon from Kensington. I had a good meeting and orientation with Chief Saylor and visited Temporary Station 65 and the El-Cerrito Main Fire Station. I got a good feel for the concerns about evacuation routes, narrow streets for fire equipment access, vegetation and forest management of Tilden Park, and was very appreciative to have a key to the Community Center not only for meetings to set up and attend, but for a restroom to use when in the area! On April 11, I met at the KCC for an appointment with a citizen who wished to share their views on the Public Safety Building and reorganization.

Contact with EBRPD

When learning more about East Bay Regional Park District and their wildland management practices, they remind the public of the CA Gov. Code 831.2 that states:

“Neither a public entity nor a public employee is liable for an injury caused by a natural condition of any unimproved public property, including but not limited to any natural condition of any lake, stream, bay, river or beach.

Ca. Gov. Code § 831.2

Nevertheless it is our goal to work closely with EBRPD to provide as safe a buffer from fire danger as possible along Kensington’s border with Tilden Park. EPC Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela reported at the board’s 3/20 meeting of his contact with Fire Captain Patrick McIntyre and provided a map of work that took place in 2023 in Tilden Park along the Kensington border to clear away brush by use of goats and work forces. Captain McIntyre stated that we can expect a similar effort in 2024. I called him and learned of all the efforts the park district makes to maintain the wildland forest and buffer residential areas bordering their parks with firebreaks. We talked about additional efforts we could work on together to achieve our objective of a safer buffer zone between Tilden Park and Kensington. I called Dr. Ana Alvarez, Deputy General Manager, to explore working through the EBRPD structure for a coordinated effort to achieve our goal of reduced fire danger at our border with Tilden Park, and she will return to the office the week of April 15th when I can make contact again and explore that topic with her. Captain McIntyre and I will plan a meeting to discuss a strategy going forward.