

Kensington PSB Renovation Groundbreaking
Larry Nagel, President, Kensington Fire Protection District
October 20, 2022

Good morning, everybody!

Today we are celebrating the beginning of the construction for the seismic retrofit and renovation of the Kensington Public Safety Building. This has been a joint collaborative project of the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) and this project has been in the works since about 2016, so it has been a long time coming. If all goes well, the project will be completed in two years or less, and we will have a virtually new building that will last for 30 years or more.

First, a little history. Although there are memorandums on file since 1997 documenting the need for more space for both districts, it wasn't until February, 2016 that a Seismic Assessment by Biggs Cardoba documented the vulnerability of the PSB to an earthquake and the report ended with a chilling note that "there is the possibility that significant structural damage may occur with loss of life during a seismic event." This began a long and sometimes tortuous path towards providing a safe and adequate space for our firefighters and police officers. In early 2021 the KFPD Board voted to begin the design of the PSB renovation, and now we are actually breaking ground. This is a tremendous achievement for Kensington!

There are so many people to thank for their contributions to this effort, and inevitably I will leave someone off the list, but I do wish to thank everyone who helped with this project. From the KPPCSD, a tremendous thank you to Interim Chief Steve Simpkins, Interim Chief Walt Schuld, and Chief Michael Gancasz for their tireless efforts in planning a better Kensington for both districts, as well as Interim GM Bill Lindsay, GM Marti Brown, Interim GM Rick Benson, and Interim GM Tony Constantouros for their support. I also want to recognize the support of the KPPCSD Board, and in particular President Sylvia Hacaj, Director Rachelle Sherris-Watt, and Director Christopher Deppe. From the KFPD, I want to recognize the tireless effort of our GM Bill Hansell, who spearheaded the renovation, as well as Chief Michael Pigoni, Interim Chief Jose Castrejon, and Chief Eric Saylor for their advice and assistance in the design effort, and last but not least the support of my fellow KFPD Directors. Finally, I want to acknowledge all of the hard work in relocating both the police and fire departments to temporary quarters, led by Sergeant Amit Nath at the Police Department and Battalion Chief Jose Castrejon at the Fire Department, but aided by so many officers and firefighters.

This has been a tremendous effort. Thanks to all who helped.

Thank you!!!
Larry Nagel