

Responses to EPC questions on EWS (EPAs) by Joe Grupalo, March 2022

[C] Exactly what can we expect an appropriately selected EWS to do for Kensington in an imminent emergency? **Best feature: The speakers work without power or cell tower. (Hayward Fault). The system will work off solar for approximately 3 days. The system can be activated via satellite. No electricity is needed to activate an alert.**

[P] Given all the emergency possibilities, how and when will it be used (Voice? Coded tones? Both?) **Berkeley is doing both. The idea behind that is the loud siren grabs people's attention. The voice messaging will follow with specific instruction as needed.**

[P] What is the best power source to use for this?
Electricity is the best power source. It is recommended to order w/ the battery backup feature.

[P] How can the system be best protected from adverse weather and wildfires?
The speakers can withstand adverse weather. Protection from wildfire should follow the Cal Fire 0-5' zone of gravel/rock surrounding the pole. Keeping vegetation free and clear is the best practice for wildfire prevention.

[P, C] Once the best system and equipment required for Kensington has been determined, what is the estimated final cost? **It all ranges based on the features ordered. Berkeley ordered 15 speakers and will land just under 2 million. (Approximately \$130k/each). That includes 3 yr maintenance, battery backup, satellite activation, etc**

[P] What is the recommended routine maintenance protocol and what will it cost?
Visual inspections. Routine pings sent out to test system. Automated monthly tests programmed in on date and time as needed.

[P, C] What is the likelihood that people indoors will be alerted when the recommended system is in place? **The closer the speaker, the more you'll hear it. They are not rated for an indoor warning system – but you will hear it. Factors on clarity depend on home construction. (Thick insulation/dual-paned windows) among other things that could reduce sound travel.**

[P] Will or can our system somehow be integrated with other nearby EWSs (e.g. Berkeley)? How to avoid confusion internally and externally with different jurisdictions? JPA-like agreements? **Like and kind vendors will be compatible with each other. UC Berkeley is bringing in 3 speakers that will be compatible with City of Berkeley speakers. Same vendor. Same make and model. However, the issue here is the jurisdiction policies. There may be discrepancies between counties, cities which could cause delay and/or no JPA-like agreements.**

[P] Who typically has EWS activation authority and access? What is the typical protocol for activation? **Typically it's all command staff level positions within a Unified Command structure. Battalion Chief and up on fire side. And Sergeant and up on law side. Each agency will differ depending on their specific agency protocols and organizational chart.**

[P] How does it integrate with ZoneHaven, the County and our Police and Fire depts.
Integrations are through ipad, iphone, tablet command, computers etc. Speakers are linked to specific zones. This is how the speakers would incorporate Zonehaven.

[P] History of recent EWS activations (e.g. for wildfire) and how well it did it work in these other areas (preferably with a similar geography)?
The only history I know of is the Emerald Fire in Laguna Beach a month or so ago. We have reached out to the LA County representative and asked for any After Action Reports. None given as of today. Berkeley and Mill Valley I do not believe have ever needed to activate the speaker system.

[P, C] If approved, how long would it take to build and implement a ready-to-use system?
This is mostly based on what will be required during the permitting process through Contra Costa County.

[P] What are the minimum number of devices needed to cover Kensington?
The speakers are generally spaced at about ½ mile apart. Each spot is a little different depending on sound blockers and such. Kensington is probably in the 4-5 speakers range.

[P] Where would they be placed? Assume that they would be on public property
The best locations are Kensington owned properties. City buildings and After that, it can become problematic and very difficult.

[P, C] What is the experience of other jurisdictions who use similar devices or who plan to use them. City of Mill Valley/Southern Marin Fire District; City of Laguna Beach; Berkeley
The only agency I know of that possibly used them on a live event is Laguna Beach a few weeks ago. There has been no activations in Berkeley, Southern Marin or Mill Valley.

[P] How would coordination with Berkeley work as Berkeley's proposed system will probably result in coverage of a portion of Kensington.
If you hear a speaker and/or siren – these are clues to seek out additional information immediately via radio, TV, etc.