



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2020

Via Zoom Teleconference

This meeting was conducted exclusively in remote access format in compliance with Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom and the Contra Costa County Shelter-in-Place Order. The following people were present.

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian
EPC Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Paul Moss, David Spath
Public: Danielle Madugo, Lorika G., Chief Tom Welch (Mill Valley), Mike Shanks and Chris Roller (Genasys)
Staff: Mary Morris-Mayorga

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Chair Kevin Padian.
2. The minutes of the May 28, 2020 Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting were approved.
3. There were no public comment on items not on the agenda.
4. The following brief reports were made by EPC members:

Peter Guerrero: Peter has written a draft of a thank you letter to Wildfire Safety. The letter also asks the Contra Costa County Fire Chief to have the camera pointed down Wildcat Canyon during Red Flag Days. The EPC will ask that the letter be signed by President Julie Stein on behalf of the KFPD Board.

The camera looking NW is caked "Vollmer Tower Top." Its current view encompasses the reservoir, Wildcat Canyon, and the Kensington/ElCerrito/Richmond ridge. The camera looking SE is called "Vollmer Peak" and it is currently looking at Mt. Diablo, south. Diablo winds blow strongly from the NE, so there is currently a blind spot between these two views. The cameras can, however, be rotated.

Lisa Caronna has done some research on chippers. Lisa is suggesting that we think about placing dumpsters around town. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

5. Discussion Items

5.1. Presentation on PA/Siren devices by Mike Shanks and Chris Roller of Genasys

Genasys markets a Multi-Channel Public Safety System which includes audio alerting, telecom messaging, sirens, and Integrated Speaker Management and Remote Activation. The system can be activated remotely. The systems are IPAWS certified and have been installed in Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, and Mill Valley.

The preliminary layout for Kensington has three speakers, but more may be required to be heard during high wind conditions (40-60 mph wind). Kevin Padian reported that he has a sample contract.

Marin County is using their Measure C funds to pay for the speakers. Berkeley is proposing something similar to Measure C as a possible source of funds. Oakland also is considering investigating speakers in the Oakland hills.

The Genasys quote was \$ 379,000 for three towers.

Katie Gluck noted that there are other vendors but that she has had trouble contacting them. Katie noted that Mill Valley purchased their equipment from Genasys and that Oakland and Berkeley are negotiating with them. In Katie's opinion, Genasys seems to be about the only viable vendor.

5.2. Discussion of PA/Siren devices with Mill Valley Deputy Chief of Operations and Training Chief Tom Welch:

Chief Tom Welch from Mill Valley gave a report on the sirens in Mill Valley. There are six sites built out with sirens. Installation by GRE Electric, a partner with Genasys, went very smoothly. Both the local fire department and police department are able activate the sirens.

5.3. Proposal from ECFD for a 3-year \$ 5,000 software service contract with ZoneHaven:

Kevin Padian reported that he doesn't understand what the \$ 10,000 allocated by the board has paid for, and he will ask ZoneHaven to give a status report to the full board.

5.4. Update and discussion of implementing Traffic Evacuation Study recommendations with KPD:

Kevin reported that he and KPD Traffic Officer Brad Harms visited Sunset Cemetery last Friday and had a meeting with the management. Sunset Cemetery is agreeable to opening the cemetery in an emergency and has given Officer Harms a key to the gates. They have agreed to allow us to install exit signs in the cemetery as well as "Emergency Evacuation Route" signs on the Sunset Avenue gate.

There are eight bollards in town that are controlled by the county. These will be replaced by chains that can be unhitched in an emergency. The chains will not be locked but will be fused to the post on one end so that they cannot be taken away.

Kevin Padian reported that parking on some street segments may be changed either permanently or on Red Flag Days and Diablo Wind Events. These changes will follow actions initiated by the KPD in concert with the Contra Costa County Department of Public Works. A meeting with John Gioia's office, Contra Costa Department of Public Works, the KPD, and KFPD is in the works. Kevin also reported that he has ordered 24 vests for volunteers. These volunteers would be working with Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Department, as well as with the KPD and other agencies, to help with emergency preparation activities and potentially provide some emergency traffic assistance. These volunteers would receive training from Officer Harms, who operated a very successful volunteer program in his previous department.

Kevin Padian reported that the EBMUD is reluctant to let their reservoir be used as a Temporary Refuge Area (TRA) because of liability and security issues. Conversations are continuing.

6. Future Agenda Items:

6.1 Increasing use of local communication resources for information and evacuation planning

6.2 Possible positions: part-time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; grant-writing consultant

6.3 Increasing and improving cell signal coverage for Kensington

6.4 Hilltop Elementary School evacuation plans

7. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on July 23, 2020 beginning at 3 PM.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.

These minutes were prepared by Larry Nagel and approved at the Committee meeting on 30 July 2020.

Attest: _____

Emergency Preparedness Committee Member