

**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF A STANDING COMMITTEE**

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: April 23, 2020  
Time of Meeting: 3:00 p.m.  
Place of Meeting: **Via Zoom teleconference**  
<https://zoom.us/j/97426695942>

**\* COVID-19 NOTICE \***

Consistent with Executive Orders No. -25-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California and the Contra Costa County March 16, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the KFPD Board meeting will not be physically open to the public and all Board Members will be teleconferencing into the meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe the meeting by accessing <https://zoom.us/j/97426695942> (on the day and time of the meeting) and may provide public comment by sending comments to the Committee and Board Clerk via email at [public.comment@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:public.comment@kensingtonfire.org). Comments will then be read into the record, with a maximum allowance of 5 minutes per individual comment, subject to the Chair's discretion.

Any member of the public who needs special accommodations should email [public.comment@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:public.comment@kensingtonfire.org) 48 hours prior to the meeting. This will enable the Kensington Fire Protection District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title 1).

Telephone No. (510) 527-8395 Website: [www.kensingtonfire.org](http://www.kensingtonfire.org)

This meeting will be conducted via a virtual teleconference.

To participate go to: <https://zoom.us/j/97426695942>

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16699009128, 97426695942# or +13462487799, 97426695942#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215  
8782 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 974 2669 5942

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/adF7G41HjS>

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Please Note: Copies of the agenda and other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on the agenda are on file in the office of the Kensington Fire Protection District Administration Office, 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, and are available for public inspection. A copy of the information packet can be viewed on the internet at [www.kensingtonfire.org/meetings](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/meetings).

April 23, 2020  
Board of Directors  
EPC Agenda

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: April 23, 2020  
Time of Meeting: 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Kevin Padian, Larry Nagel  
Lisa Caronna, Cortis Cooper, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero,  
Peter Liddell, Paul Moss, David Spath

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of EPC Meeting Minutes (ACTION)
4. Updates on Activities and Items of Interest from Committee Members
5. Update on Scheduled Webinar Presentation by Traffic Consultants,  
Saturday, May 9 at 3 p.m.
6. Discussion of the Report of the Kensington Evacuation Research Project:  
Recommendation of a List of Preliminary Steps to Present to the Board  
(ACTION)
7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
8. Scheduling Next Meeting
9. Adjourn

**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT****EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: August 28, 2019  
Time of Meeting: 3:00 p.m.  
Place of Meeting: Arlington Community Church, Fireside Room  
52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 PM. All members were present except Paul Moss (by advance notice). There was no public comment. The members introduced themselves and the protocols of the Brown Act were discussed. One-way communication of information, listed as “for information only,” is the only way to share findings with other committee members, and such communications cannot include recommendations for Committee or Board decisions. A quorum of the Committee is any five members. It was generally understood that as far as public communication goes, committee members are encouraged to discuss their work and their findings with their neighbors; they do not discuss possible actions to be recommended to the Board; and they do not speak officially for the Committee or for the Board. Questions may be referred to Board members on the Committee or to other Board members as appropriate. The charge of the committee is instantiated in Board Policy 1140.60.

The activities of the Committee to date were discussed as a prelude to the directions of future activities by the newly reconstituted Committee, and the relationships among the activities.

1. The Traffic Study: commissioned for the Board by the EPC, the consultants will map and measure the streets of Kensington and immediately adjacent streets; compile data on vehicle loads, traffic flows, street directions, and parking orientations; make recommendations about possible changes in traffic flow directions, parking orientations, and evacuation routes (good and bad); and provide their data to the Polygon Project designers (not connected with the EPC). Using these data and recommendations, the Committee will present actions to the Board; the Board may elect to recommend to the County such changes as will be deemed necessary to insure safer traffic flow in case of evacuation.<sup>1</sup>

2. Paths: This is a long-standing concern of the community that will be addressed in more depth at the next meeting.

3. Warning systems: these include but are not limited to cameras, sensors, and sirens. Because Kensington is so small, its roads are narrow and overloaded with vehicles, and much of its population in need of early warning, pre-evacuation is seen as the most important priority for the community. However the District cannot invest in technology until it is clear who will control it, what the criteria are for activating it, and how personnel are trained.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Guerrero recommended that the consultants check with the County as soon as possible to be sure that their methods are consonant with County standards, so that their eventual recommendations will be recognized as valid. Director Padian will facilitate this.

<sup>2</sup> Directors Padian and Nagel will consult County officials to determine the answers to these questions.

4. CERT training and the institution of FireSafe communities: Because residents will be largely on their own in case of a major fire or earthquake, neighborhood groups and training are critical to public safety. The EPC should take the lead at the neighborhood level to educate, provide help, identify new leaders, and help to organize meetings to raise consciousness.

5. Earthquake preparedness: Although fire preparedness and earthquake preparedness share some common features, there are also distinct characteristics of each. Fire poses a more tangible immediate danger but it is just as important to educate residents about dealing with an earthquake. This will be addressed at a future meeting.

Deployment of Committee members: Spath and Caronna will spearhead the initiative on Paths. Directors Padian and Nagel will work with the County on items summarized in footnotes 1-3.<sup>3</sup> Cooper and Guerrero will look into remote sensing devices. Gluck and Moss will investigate the logistics of sirens. Director Padian will discuss the topic of cell towers with County personnel. The approach to publicizing and propagating CERT neighborhoods and FireSafe communities will be under the purview of Director Nagel, along with Liddell, Cooper, and Guerrero. Contributions to these efforts are fluid but cannot comprise more than four members before recommendations are discussed in an open meeting.

Other concerns: Encouraging a shift in priorities for mitigation work in Tilden Park was addressed at two levels: local and regional, as discussed in Footnote 3. The topic of fire danger signs, to be placed at the intersection of Grizzly Peak and Beloit, and on the median strip of the Arlington south of the PSB, was discussed and will be on the Board's September agenda. The topic of providing emergency radios to all Kensington households, starting with a pilot program, should be investigated by the Committee at its next meeting before possibly bringing it to the Board.

Objectives for the next meeting include a report on the paths; a discussion of emergency radios; and progress on the assigned items.

Several members will be absent for most of September so will try to schedule our next meeting in late September. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM.

**These minutes were prepared by Brenda Navellier and approved at the Committee meeting of 23 April 2020.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

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<sup>3</sup> The third item to address with the County was raised by Cort Cooper, concerning working with EBRP to attempt to get better hazard mitigation along the ridgeline. It was proposed that both local and regional approaches should be pursued. The neighbors along the Kensington ridgeline have worked informally with Parks personnel; John Gioia has also expressed strong interest in coordinating the discussions about this topic between EB municipalities on the one hand and the Park on the other. Directors Padian and Nagel will pursue this with his office.

**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT****EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: September 26, 2019  
Time of Meeting: 3:00 p.m.  
Place of Meeting: Arlington Community Church, Fireside Room  
52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

Committee Members: Kevin Padian  
Lisa Caronna, Cortis Cooper, Katie Gluck, Peter Liddell, Paul Moss, David Spath

**CALL TO ORDER:** Director Padian called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm. All members were present except Director Larry Nagel and Peter Guerrero, who were both excused (out of town).

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The activities of the committee, how they relate, and the deployment of various members on them were briefly reviewed. Cortis Cooper raised a concern from the last meeting about hazard mitigation priorities along the EBRP ridgeline. Many residents are concerned that not enough effort is being expended in this area. We discussed the difficulties of the decisions of agencies charged with spending unfortunately limited funds on mitigation, needing to set priorities long in advance. We discussed whether the Fire Board could write a letter to the EBRPD asking that more effort be deployed in our area. Some members observed that discussions with EBRPD Chief Aileen Thiele had been constructive but that their funds for this year were at their limit and already committed. It was suggested that such a letter might have greater traction with a contribution in kind; for example, if the KFPD could offer to contribute financially on specific projects and if our neighborhoods on the ridgeline could commit to redoubled efforts in debris clearing and house-hardening. Further discussion with the EBRPD is probably desirable.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Padian reported that the preliminary report of the Traffic Study was presented in the September Board packet, and that the consultants are trying to work with the County on ensuring that they use a methodology that will conform to County practices.

Caronna and Spath presented a perspective on the steps that need to be taken to resolve ownership and future care of Kensington's paths. These points are summarized on the attached handout. Of the issues involved, the first is public ownership, which will enable maintenance, resolve liability, and allow the submission of grant proposals for improvement. The three most plausible solutions are ownership by the KFPD, ownership by the KPPCSD, and joint ownership through a Joint Powers Agreement. The next goal will be to develop arguments and evidence for each position to discuss and bring before the Fire Board and eventually the KPPCSD Board.

Padian suggested a plan to contact the County OES office to discuss standards and procedures involved in declaring an emergency that would include Kensington. If the KFPD were interested in investing in emergency sensing and notification equipment, from sensors to sirens, it would be important to know more about control and actuation of these devices and notifications. He and Director Nagel hope to make inquiries in the near future.

Padian spoke with a County staffer about cell tower capability during an emergency (see article in *SF Chronicle* 9/25/2019). Apparently local agencies (County, municipal) have little influence on the number and positioning of towers, which is increasingly a Federal jurisdiction. The number of towers, whether they have backup power (and for how long), and whether they have or can be brought generators in case of emergency varies among the five carriers that service this area. More and better coverage by cell towers, which are greatly improved over earlier models, is seen as a public safety issue. The community needs information on this.

The purchase of two fire danger signs is on the agenda for the October Board meeting. One is suggested for the Arlington near the PSB and the other in the hills at a site to be determined. The cost for both would be about \$2500 plus costs of mounting, to be done by the County. Some members felt that permanent signs would come to be ignored by motorists, and that occasional placement of “Red Flag Day” and other signs would be more effective. Most members seemed to feel that the cost was small enough to be of benefit, but also that other avenues (such as a portable “Red Flag Day” sign) could be considered. For one thing, residents need education on what a “Red Flag Day” warning actually means in terms of what residents should do and not do, and this could be addressed by mailed and emailed communications.

The topics of CERT training and FireWise communities were considered jointly. Both need greater awareness and participation in Kensington. Fewer and fewer CERT areas have coordinators. Currently B/C Joe Grupalo is primarily responsible (under the Chief) for Emergency Preparedness for the FD in both El Cerrito and Kensington. The Committee discussed whether to suggest that the Board consider hiring an emergency preparedness coordinator whose job would be to work with residents and neighborhoods to promote CERT training, house hardening, and the establishment of FireWise communities. Paul Moss opined that there were few real benefits for neighborhoods in acquiring FireSafe status, although it was acknowledged that some funding agencies (e.g., DFSC) were favoring this status in giving mitigation grants. Otherwise most of the criteria were things that residents would be doing anyway. It was observed that FireSafe status, to our knowledge, does not affect insurance coverage for any carriers except USAA. These considerations, however, are independent of whether a coordinator would be a useful investment by the District.

We discussed the possible deployment of sirens. Gluck and Liddell have begun to canvass local and regional agencies about their decisions, criteria, and operational questions regarding sirens. A pattern that seems to emerge is that, whereas most local citizens are in favor of sirens (or assume we already have them), public safety personnel are generally against them. One main problem appears to be public education about what people should do when they hear a siren (this was reflected in a recent FEMA research report). Several members, including some originally skeptical about sirens, were impressed by Berkeley’s commission report on sirens, which was balanced but overall positive (the \$1.1M projected cost was postponed for consideration until their City Council’s next budget meeting). There are about 100 sirens with various functionalities in our County; areas of Marin and Sonoma counties are apparently purchasing some new ones.

Gluck and Liddell report that their plans for the next KPSC (Kensington Public Safety Committee) event are well under way; they would like to hold it in the renovated Community Center when it reopens because Arlington Community Church is booked far into the future on weekends. They propose a combination of demonstrations, exhibits, and informational updates on critical issues.

Padian suggested that the Board might wish to discuss financial support for this event, which is traditionally organized by the independent and self-funded KPSC.

The Fire Board may consider a pilot program by which 500 emergency radios would be purchased and distributed on demand to residents, with the possibility of doing more if interest warrants. One model can be acquired for about \$30 per, including three AAA batteries to supply one of its four power sources; it features AM/FM/NOAA bands with two lights and a hand-activated siren. Another model would cost more like \$50 and it has most of the same features, plus it can automatically activate the NOAA band in an emergency (it can also flash a light for the hearing-impaired); it lacks the siren and its Li-ion battery is not replaceable.

Most members (as well as residents who attended) were strongly in favor of the program. We discussed which model would be better to offer; one possibility is to offer the \$30 model but to direct attention to the \$50 model that residents could purchase themselves if they preferred. Operational information, as well as local emergency frequencies, would be provided.

Another question is whether the radios would be given away free or if contributions would be encouraged. Most members seemed to feel that some contribution would provide “skin in the game” and better ensure that the radio would be used rather than shelved. One suggestion is that a “sliding scale” be used, although how to establish it could be difficult; another was that residents simply be informed of the attendant costs and advised that if they contributed what they could, more people could be helped. The mechanism for passing any funds to the District (cash or check) would need to be determined.

Committee members were informed that the Board may soon consider the question whether Committee members should be asked to submit State Form 700 (Financial Disclosure / Conflict of Interest), because some of its formal recommendations to the board (of which none have yet been made) may involve the use of District funds. The Board’s attorney has determined that this would not be required by the State but it may be prudent.

Agenda items will be solicited by email for the next Committee meeting, which will be scheduled through an online poll, intended to take place in the latter half of October.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

**These minutes were prepared by Kevin Padian and approved at the Committee meeting of 23 April 2020.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date of Meeting: October 24, 2019  
Time of Meeting: 3:00 p.m.  
Place of Meeting: Arlington Community Church, Fireside Room  
52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

Committee Members: Kevin Padian, Larry Nagel  
Lisa Caronna, Cortis Cooper, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Paul Moss, David Spath

Public: Robin Noda

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes – The agenda was adopted by consensus. The minutes of the September 25, 2019 EPC meeting were approved by consensus.
3. Public Comment – None
4. Old Business
  - a. Paths: Lisa Coronna reported on the activities of the Kensington Pathkeepers. They are working on improving public awareness of the paths and held a path walk for citizens which was attended by Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia. The Kensington Pathkeepers are holding meetings with residents whose homes adjoin a path with the goal of understanding resident's concerns. At present, the committee is focusing on the Willamette, Ardmere, and Beloit paths. The problem the Pathkeepers are struggling with is that Kensington groups have a problem affiliating with a nonprofit organization. Lisa noted that the KCC has been too busy to meet with the Pathkeepers. Another problem Lisa noted was that there are no surveys of the paths and the cost of surveying the Kensington paths is steep.
  - b. Sirens: Katie Gluck reported that she has met with Berkeley Fire Department Deputy Chief Keith May to obtain information about the Berkeley sirens. She also will meet with Contra Costa County OES personnel to obtain information about the County Community Warning System (CWS).
  - c. Fire Danger Signs: Kevin Padian reported that the major issue with procuring and installing Fire Danger Signs are determining who will maintain the signs and be responsible for the upkeep. Kevin will be meeting with Chief Mike Pigoni to attempt to solve this issue

- d. Working with KFPD Board & EBRPD toward faster hazard mitigation: Larry Nagel reported that he and Cortis Cooper attended the last EBRPD Board meeting on October 1, 2019 and spoke during the public comment session on the need to update the EBRPD Fire Protection Plan, which now is ten years old. Larry reported that after the meeting, EBRPD Director Beverly Land (Ward 7) requested more information on which areas of the plan need improvement. Larry and Cortis will present a draft report at the next EPC meeting.
  - e. Next KPSC Forum: Katie Gluck noted that KPSC will wait until spring for the next forum. There was some discussion about how the KFPD could assist in KPSC forums.
  - f. Emergency Radios: Kevin brought two demonstration emergency radios. There was some discussion about whether the radios should be provided to residents free of charge or whether KFPD should charge for them. This needs more investigation.
1. New Business
    - a. Possible coordination of efforts on CERT training, home hardening, FireSafe communities: This topic was tabled due to lack of time
    - b. OES control of possible sensory and warning devices in Kensington: This topic was tabled due to lack of time
    - c. What have we learned from the recent PG&E shutoff? Translation to EP? This topic was tabled due to lack of time
    - d. Community education: what should our next steps be? This topic was tabled due to lack of time
      - i. mailers
      - ii. email / NextDoor notifications
      - iii. ads in the Outlook and elsewhere
      - iv. other approaches
  1. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: It was agreed that the agenda was way too long, and we'll probably need next meeting just to catch up. No new items were suggested for the November 21, 2019 meeting.
  2. Scheduling Next Meeting – Because of the holidays, it was decided to schedule the November meeting for November 21, 2019 (to avoid Thanksgiving) and the December meeting for December 19, 2019 (to avoid Christmas). Kevin agreed to reserve a room for these meetings.

3. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

**These minutes were prepared by Larry Nagel and approved at the Committee meeting of 23 April 2020.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date of Meeting: November 21, 2019  
Time of Meeting: 3:00 PM  
Place of Meeting: Arlington Community Church, Fireside Room  
52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

Committee Members: Kevin Padian, Larry Nagel  
Lisa Caronna, Cortis Cooper, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Paul Moss

Public: Laurie Gomes

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment – None
3. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes – The agenda was adopted by consensus. The minutes of the October 24, 2019 EPC meeting were approved by consensus with the correction by Lisa Caronna that the last sentence of her report should read “the KCC has been too busy to meet with the Pathkeepers.”
4. Old Business
  - a. Fire Danger Signs: Kevin Padian reviewed the status of the Fire Danger signs. Kevin will contact Aileen Thiele, Fire Chief of EBRPD, to determine if EBRPD would be able to maintain a sign in the hills but not on EBRPD property. Kevin also will contact the KPPFD attorney about liability issues with the sign in the hills.
  - b. Emergency Radios: At the last meeting, we decided on the Midland ER-210 radio, which includes an automatic alerting feature. Kevin will write up a proposal about the radios for the full Board addressing the following issues:
    - Do we provide radios or simply notify citizens of some options?
    - If we provide, do we sell at cost or solicit contributions on a pay-what-you-can basis?
    - We need to stress the importance of the radios for low-income and low-mobility people
    - Determine the availability of Midland ER-210s
  - c. Determining chain of command and protocol for county emergencies: It was suggested that this item was more appropriate for the upcoming Wildcat Canyon Fire Meeting at the Unitarian Church on December 2.

- d. Possible coordination of efforts on CERT training, home hardening, FireSafe communities: Kevin and Larry will strategize on this issue and bring back suggestions at the next EPC meeting.
- e. OES control of possible sensory and warning devices in Kensington: Kevin and Larry have to sit down and strategize to see about finding out who would control sirens in Kensington if we were to get them.
- f. What have we learned from the PG&E Shutoff? Translation to EP? No further discussion on this topic.
- g. Community education: what should our next steps be?

- mailers
- email / NextDoor notifications
- ads in the Outlook and elsewhere
- other approaches

There was no further discussion on this topic

## 5. New Business

- a. Cortis Cooper for the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). Working with KFPD Board & EBRPD toward faster hazard mitigation: Larry Nagel reported that he and Cortis Cooper attended the last EBRPD Board meeting on October 1, 2019 and spoke during the public comment session on the need to update the EBRPD Fire Protection Plan, which now is ten years old. Larry reported that after the meeting, EBRPD Director Beverly Land (Ward 7) requested more information on which areas of the plan need improvement. Larry and Cortis will present a draft report at the next EPC meeting.
- b. To where do Kensingtonians evacuate? (and how do they find out): There was considerable discussion on this topic. There were several questions for Kate Rauch, John Gioia, Chief Pighoni about where to go in case of an evacuation and who is in charge of planning that for our area. Everyone agreed to check the registration of their cell phones with the county warning system.
- c. Discussion about advising Fire Board on hiring a grant writing consultant
- d. Request from traffic consultants about helping with a survey

6. Reports on Activities (various members)
  - a. Lisa Corona reported on the activities of the Kensington Pathkeepers. There will be a weed cleaning work party this Saturday for the Stratford Path. The Pathkeepers will attend a meeting of all the K groups to attempt to get some buy in.
  - b. Sirens: Katie Gluck reported that she has met with Berkeley Fire Department Deputy Chief Keith May to obtain information about the Berkeley sirens. Laguna Beach and San Francisco are pursuing sirens made by ATI. ATI sirens can be integrated into digital warning systems that send alerts to cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices. These sirens have an omni-directional pattern.
  - c. Paul Moss assembled some good info on go-bags and we need to discuss this further; maybe he'll have some specific recommendations for the next meeting.
7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: It was agreed that the agenda was way too long, and we'll probably need next meeting just to catch up. No new items were suggested for the December 19, 2019 meeting.
8. Scheduling Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held on December 19, 2019.
9. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

**These minutes were prepared by Larry Nagel and approved at the Committee meeting of 23 April 2020.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 23, 2020  
Time of Meeting: 3:00 PM  
Place of Meeting: Arlington Community Church, Fireside Room  
52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

Committee Members: Kevin Padian, Larry Nagel  
Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Paul Moss, David Spath

Public: Jason Carrick, Chris Hilliard, Danielle Madulo, Gene Madulo,  
Curt Smith, Kathy Smith

1. Call To Order: Kevin Padian called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM
2. Public Comment: None
3. Approval of Committee Minutes: Deferred
4. Old Business

a. Emergency radio plan – supplemental information requested by Board

Kevin brought forth several logistical details that are hampering the distribution of emergency radios. The main problem is collecting the money to offset the cost of the radios.

- We could use the Moraga-Orinda CERT website, which is already used to distribute water containers and fire extinguisher
- We could set up a table at Station 65 and collect a contribution
- We could just allow people to pick up the radios and pay on an honor system

b. Proposal for go-bags

Paul Moss brought several examples of go-bags that we could provide to residents for little or no cost. The basic bag is about \$15, and loaded with essential supplies is still around \$50. However, we have the same logistical problem as with the emergency radios. The consensus was that we should delay action on the go-bags until we get the emergency radio situation figured out.

c. Fire danger sign

Kevin Padian noted that the sign that will be placed in front of Station 65 has been ordered. We still need to get permission from Contra Costa County to install the sign.

d. Contra Costa County emergency protocol and authority

Kevin Padian noted that we still need to work out what protocols with Contra Costa County are in place or need to be developed for emergency response. Specifically, if we install sirens, who would be responsible for sounding them? If we install cameras and sensors in the hills, who would be responsible for operating them? Kevin Padian and Larry Nagel will meet with Contra Costa County Fire officials to try to sort out this issue.

e. Transmission of EPC/Board letter to EBRPD

Larry Nagel reported that the report that Cortis Cooper and he wrote entitled “The Need for an Updated Fuel Reduction Plan” was sent to the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors on January 9, 2020 together with a cover letter on KFPD letterhead.

5. New Business

a. Climate Resiliency, Wildfire, Water Bond (SB 45)

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) has requested that all Fire Districts provide feedback on proposed SB 45 regarding funding for wildfire prevention measures. The KFPD Board of Directors has, in turn, requested comments from the EPC on SB 45. Kevin asked all members to peruse the bill and present comments to him, so that he can collate the comments and present them to the KFPD Board.

b. Traffic consultants’ study report: discussion of basic points

The consultants who have been conducting a Traffic Survey of Kensington will be presenting their report to the Board shortly. Kevin has distributed a memo he wrote entitled “Preliminary EPC assessment of Traffic Consultants’ Final Report” and this memorandum is contained in Appendix A of these minutes. Kevin asked for feedback from EPC members.

c. Proposal for a KASEP class on CERT (information only, not KFPD business)

The KASEP has proposed a class on CERT training aimed at ages 6-11. Kevin Padian asked for feedback on this idea. The consensus of the group was that this class is an excellent idea.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: No new items suggested

7. Scheduling Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 3 PM in the Fireside Room of the Arlington Community Church

8. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

**These minutes were prepared by Larry Nagel and approved at the Committee meeting of 23 April 2020.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

## APPENDIX A

### **Preliminary EPC assessment of Traffic Consultants' Final Report Kevin Padian**

The EPC members agreed that the Report is comprehensive, admirably detailed, suited for its purpose, and informative. It provides a great deal of baseline data as well as recommendations for future action by the KFPD Board, as well as (potentially) the KPPCSD and the County.

The main focus of the report is on traffic patterns and flow in Kensington and surrounding neighborhoods, and how traffic would be affected in case of a wildfire that would require evacuation. The report provides 43 recommendations, nearly all of which appear useful. Some pertain to local and others to regional situations; some are general and some are specific; some are clearly the provenience of the KFPD and others apply more to other agencies.

The EPC wished for a kind of Executive Summary that would epitomize the findings and recommendations of the consultants beyond the general statements of the Abstract and Conclusions. The EPC's board members will ask to take this up with the consultants at earliest convenience.

In general the report focuses on two aspects: the logistics of evacuation, given the traffic data collected, and the mechanics of improving access and information concerning evacuation routes and procedures.

First, the report lays out the dimensions, flow features, and traffic loads of the local streets, and assesses likely evacuation routes for these street segments depending on the direction of a wildfire threat. It also discusses specific problems with certain routes and areas, depending on factors such as how drivers might be directed to evacuate in case of emergency, and the availability of potential exit routes such as through the cemetery or the EBMUD facilities. It would be good to have these factors presented succinctly in an Executive Summary.

Second, the report provides some proposed mechanisms that should be considered by the District for recommendation to the County. These include additional signs at intersections to improve traffic control; painting curbs red at T-intersections, particularly narrow or winding stretches of road, and pinch points where emergency vehicles might find difficult access; possible changes in the direction of parking on certain street segments; possible limitations of parking to one side of the street on certain segments; possible changes of certain street segments to one-way only; infrastructural additions such as evacuation route signs and gutter gratings on highly sloping roads; and the limitation of street parking during Red Flag Days or Fire Danger Seasons. It would be good to have these factors presented succinctly in an Executive Summary.

Other specific questions were raised about logistical or practical details mentioned in the report, but these were mostly seen as less critical for the general consideration of the Report.

## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 27, 2020  
Time of Meeting: 3:00 PM  
Place of Meeting: Arlington Community Church, Fireside Room  
52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

Committee Members: Kevin Padian, Larry Nagel  
Lisa Caronna, Cortis Cooper, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Paul Moss

Public: Laurie Jones, Robin Noda, Danielle Medugo

1. Call To Order: Kevin Padian called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM
2. Public Comment

Lori Jones asked the question about what are we doing to prepare for COVID-19. Kevin Padian responded that, although COVID-19 definitely is an emergency, it is beyond the scope and abilities of the EPC and has to be handled by health professional at the Contra Costa Health Department.

Danielle Medugo asked about the status of the cameras that will be used for detection of fire. Peter Guerrero responded that there are currently three cameras that are operational: Mt. Diablo, Vollmer Peak, and Vollmer Tower Top. All of the cameras in the Alert Wildfire system may be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.alertwildfire.org/southeastbay/>

3. Approval of Committee Minutes: Deferred
4. Old Business
  - a. Emergency radio plan – update  
Kevin Padian gave an update on emergency radios. The ERT 10 that we decided upon is no longer available. Kevin is looking at the upgrade for the ERT 10. The retail cost is about \$60, but we should be able to purchase them for \$45. We still are facing the same logistical problems centering on how to collect money to offset the cost of the radios.
  - b. Proposal for go-bags  
The proposal for go-bags was tabled until we resolve the emergency radio issue.

c. Sirens

Katie Gluck gave a report on sirens. She has been in contact with Chris Roller who is the representative for Genasys. A set of questions asked by Katie and answered by Chris are given in Appendix A of these minutes. Katie's suggestion is that we have Chris visit Kensington to make an assessment of installing sirens here. Chris could have a small group of fire district people escort him and assist him as needed. Katie suggested that perhaps Mike Pighoni, Kevin Padian, and Larry Nagel could be that group. Danielle Medugo noted that we could make topological maps available to assist in the project. Peter Guerrero noted that we need to figure out how to pay for these sirens.

d. CCC emergency protocol and authority

Kevin Padian reported that nothing has happened on this issue since last meeting.

e. Traffic consultants' study report: planning for a public weekend meeting

Kevin Padian reported that the consultants will be presenting the results of the Kensington Traffic Survey at a public meeting on April 11. Linnea Due also will be interviewing the consultants for an article in the Outlook. The study has identified traffic choke points in Kensington, and some of these can be addressed immediately. In some cases, the solution is as easy as painting curbs red. One issue is the need to be able to use the cemetery for evacuation. Kevin Padian and Larry Nagel will speak with the cemetery operators about this issue.

It was decided that the Traffic Study was too complicated an issue to cover in a regular meeting, and that we should schedule a special meeting of the EPC where the Traffic Study is the sole agenda item. This obviously has to happen before April 11. After some calendar checking, it was decided that March 5, 2020 would be a good day to have the meeting. Kevin will circulate a draft agenda.

5. New Business

a. SB45

Kevin thanked the EPC members who thoroughly read SB45 and proffered comments on what SB45 did and didn't do for the Kensington Fire Protection District. Kevin collated these comments and sent them to KFPD Board President Julie Stein, who then forwarded the comments to the CSDA.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: No new items were suggested

7. Scheduling Next Meeting

The Special Meeting of the EPC will be held on Thursday, March 5 at 3 PM, probably in the Fireside Room at the Arlington Community Church. The next regular meeting of the EPC will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 3 PM in the Fireside Room at the Arlington Community Church.

8. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

**These minutes were prepared by Larry Nagel and approved at the Committee meeting of 23 April 2020.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

## APPENDIX A

### Some questions about sirens answered by Chris Roller, Genasys

[Chris was good enough to answer some questions about sirens and his company's products.]

Please find a Genasys Overview Video at the following link: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1n7799Y0rPJfjghvaUs\\_osB-kyrs7uvKF](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1n7799Y0rPJfjghvaUs_osB-kyrs7uvKF)

Some claim you won't be able to hear them in high wind.

Wind and foliage will reduce the distance but not significantly. The Genasys/LRAD speakers can be understood with astonishing clarity at great distances.

Can we have different signals, like pre-evacuation and evacuation?

The Genasys LRAD speakers are remarkable. They provide

- live voice from a remote computer or cell phone
- Live voice from a microphone at the base of the speaker
- Pre-recorded messages from the base of the speaker or from a remote locations (more than 100 messages can be recorded.)
- Any digital siren tone/music/chimes, anything can be recorded.

How will sirens fit in with the polygon program, which attempts to evacuate neighborhoods one at a time?

The remote software can allow the user to create a polygon or set a predefined group or area to provide an alert with a message following.

For example –

The North area – 10 second siren alert tone- Message “Please evacuate the area to the North”

South area – 10 second siren alert tone – Message “Please evacuate the area to the South”

If there is a voice, how far away can it be heard?

Yes. The voice can be heard as far as the siren tone. It depends on the size of the unit – Factor ½ mile up to 1mile.

Will they be tested all the time and drive people crazy?

No, the great thing about our system. It can be silent tested, it can have low volume test or it can play something relevant for the city, Good luck to the High School Basketball team.

Mill Valley tests their system the first Saturday at noon each month.

How is it determined where to situate them? Do they have to be on public or private land?

We can do a layout, Public land with some access for a truck to get to the area. It could be on a rooftop or pole 40-50 ft above grade. A fire station or open area like a park or school are great locations.

What if neighbors complain about not wanting them in their backyards?

We have found that more people are happy about the system than upset. If it is near a fire station, it is much different than hearing the Fire Trucks rollout.

In your experience, how are these sirens controlled? That is by what agencies?

Great question! The best practice is to have the software which is IP based. This software would reside at an EOC or Police 911 center. We have seen redundant activation points where an adjacent city has access or the County has access. Some customers are trying to use the IPAWS (we are IPAWS compliant) for activation.

Mill Valley – They have activation capability from their cell phone and software at the Fire Station but the County will monitor and activate the system in case of an emergency.

Laguna Beach – The City will manage it and they have an agreement with Newport Beach City of Irvine and Laguna to share activation capability. This software is cloud based so if you have access to the internet and the secure information, you can gain access.

What are the criteria they use to activate the sirens? There is no use installing them if they are not going to be used, or used too late.

This is another great question. However, this one falls onto the gov side. I am not really sure the protocols but could connect you to some people like Mill Valley or Newport Beach or others to get a feel for this protocol.

Is pre-evacuation a big component to using sirens?

The greatest asset regarding our speakers.

1. They do not rely on the existing infrastructure. It is battery backed up/ solar power and Satellite activation. In case the Power Company shuts down power or Cell company turns off their towers, the LRAD speakers will still work!
2. The Speakers can provide pre-evacuation information and alert
3. A second form of verification in case someone receives a text message and also hears the speakers they will react.
4. During the event – the speaker message can be changed on the fly to provide new directions
5. After the event – The speakers can provide messages about what to do or when the event is over and everyone is safe.

This is a multi-purpose system.