



**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 called "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 voice 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, and noted that winds of that speed are seldom if ever reported in Kensington, so there may be no need for more than three devices.

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. Safety officials and public council members generally favor the system, but financing is problematic.

The Genasys estimate was \$ 379,000 for three towers, but this was only an informal figure not subject to negotiation.

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. We continue to look into the question.

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

Deputy 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. The D/C opined that if he had to do it again he would have opted for the solar batteries (if financially feasible) for long-term cost savings and greater longevity during outages.

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. The project was advertised as developing "polygons" for Kensington, but it turned out that all of El Cerrito (5x Kensington's size) was also included in the project, and a concern is that this could be viewed as a gift from one municipality to another, apart from the fact that Kensington was never informed that El Cerrito would also be mapped. El Cerrito contributed no funds to the project.

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 the KPD is considering 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 the KPD wants to develop a corps of volunteers, working with Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Department, as well as with the KPD and other agencies, to help with emergency preparation and education 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. However, the COVID crisis has forced the cancellation of all in-person public education activities concerning potential parking changes in Kensington, and alternate routes will have to be found.

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 Kevin Padian and approved at the Committee meeting on 22 October 2020.**

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



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:00 – 5:00pm**

**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.

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian  
 Public Members: Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Danielle Madugo, David Spath, Paul Moss, Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck  
 Staff: Mary Morris-Mayorga  
 Public: Cyrus Modavi, Julie Stein, Pam Martin, Annette McCoubrey

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Kevin Padian at 3:10 PM. Larry Nagel recorded the attendance (all present).
2. Public comment on items not on the agenda (none)
3. Recommendation to accept minutes from June 25 meeting (ACTION) Moved and seconded (Liddell, Nagel) to accept minutes; approved unanimously
4. Brief reports from EPC members: evacuation plan for Kensington Elementary School (Danielle); Vollmer cameras letter; emergency radios; fire danger sign; Wildcat Canyon PG&E transmission lines (Peter G); cell tower follow-up; status of EBMUD discussions on using the Sunset Reservoir for temporary evacuation

Danielle Madugo: Evacuation plan for Kensington Elementary School. Met with Kevin, Brad Harms, and reviewed evacuation. Danielle is pushing for an off campus evacuation plan for the school. Principal is planning on an evacuation drill in the fall of 2021.

Mary Morris-Mayorga: Letter on the Vollmer Peak cameras is still in the works and should be signed by President Stein this week.

Kevin Padian: Emergency radios. Nothing further has been done. The board is still working on how to collect money for the radios.

Kevin Padian: Fire danger sign was delivered in March and is still housed in the Public Safety Building. Fernando Herrera (CCC DPW) has offered to install the sign in the median on his own time.

Peter Guerrero: Letter regarding the camera on Wildcat Canyon PG&E transmission lines. Also on Vollmer Peak cameras, Peter noted that there is a blind spot and that a fire in Wildcat Canyon would not be detected. Peter noted that Chief Pigoni has the ability to re-aim the camera. Peter thinks we need a discussion with Cal Fire and County as well as Chief Pigoni to discuss how to manage the cameras. Danielle Madugo also noted that the cameras are pointed in the wrong direction for detecting fires in Wildcat Canyon.

Danielle Madugo: Cell tower coverage AT&T has an app (mark the spot) to measure cell signal strength. Kevin noted that cell service providers deal directly with FCC rather than local agencies, which means that locally we have less influence on their numbers and placements, their power reserves in outages, etc.

Kevin Padian (on behalf of KPD Ofc Brad Harms): status of EBMUD discussions on using the Sunset Reservoir for temporary evacuation. EBMUD is balking at using the reservoir as a TRA (Temporary Refuge Area). One of their concerns is liability, and the other is the possibility that someone might try to poison the water supply. Police are interested in having a space at the reservoir for emergency supplies in case of extended community crisis (earthquake, fire). Peter Guerrero noted that EBMUD has cut back the grass on the reservoir surface, so it is less a fire hazard now.

## 5. Discussion Items

### 5.1. Checking to make sure we all are registered for CCC CWS alerts!\* (Larry)

Everyone on the meeting was pretty sure they were signed up for Nixle and CoCo CWS.

### 5.2. Discussion of debris bins / chippers (Lisa)

Lisa reported on her research on chippers. BayView will take whatever is put out on garbage day. Berkeley pickups are twice a year in May and

September. Berkeley's pickup program costs \$130 K per year. Peter Guerrero noted that a chipper program would require a major volunteer effort and that we have bigger fish to fry.

5.3. Report on meeting with Mike Shanks, Genasys, on possible sites for PA devices, and discussion and possible recommendation to Fire Board

Kevin Padian reported that he had a further meeting with Mike Shanks and Brad Harms. There is no written proposal or negotiation, only gathering of information for potential comparisons with other companies. Genasys would cover the area with three towers. There are several options. Telephone poles are already there but not good structurally. Genasys recommends separate poles that are 40 feet tall and 20 feet deep. There are options including PG&E and solar panels. Solar panels would not require PG&E boxes and bills, and would provide 72 hrs of renewable power in an outage. Next step would be to have a discussion with the board. San Francisco will have ITL replace their sirens. Katie will check with San Francisco FD to see what they are pursuing.

5.4. Update on progress with emergency signs for Sunset View Cemetery

Emergency signs have been erected in the cemetery. Two Emergency Evacuation signs at the Sunset Avenue gate and two Emergency Exit signs.

5.5. Discussion of proposed software service contract with ZoneHaven and possible recommendation to Fire Board (ACTION; supp info)

Tabled

5.6. Update and discussion of implementing TES recommendations with KPD

Kevin, Danielle, and Officer Harms are working on school evacuation. The bollards in Kensington Park have been replaced with chains that can be detached on one end to allow larger vehicles to pass.

5.7. Report on meeting about Kensington Parking organized by Sup. Gioia's office and possible recommendation to Fire Board

Recommendation by Chris Deppe that the Police and Fire Boards (a) approve the recommendations for investigating changing parking on six streets (Item

5.7) and (b) that a video be produced to assist in educating the public. We need to work with Berkeley FD to coordinate evacuation routes. Lisa Coronna asked that we add the need for public input and public education in advance of recommendations to the county on the proposed parking changes. Also add Willamette to the list of streets where parking changes happen (this is the discretion of KPD; we'll check).

- 5.8. Discussion and possible recommendation to Fire Board to hire a part-time Emergency Preparedness coordinator (ACTION; supp info) (see also item 6.1)

Kevin led the discussion on the need for a part-time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Mary will contact Chief Pighoni to ascertain the status of Emergency Preparedness training with respect to the contract with ECFD and report back to the EPC.

- 5.9. Recommendation to clear vegetation from upper Kensington Park Drive near the elementary school and east of the soccer field to mitigate evacuation (ACTION)

KFD has to work with School District and the KPPCSD to coordinate vegetation removal.

- 5.10. Report on Orinda Virtual Evacuation Survey Preliminary results (supp info)

For our information only.

- 5.11. Recommendation to KFPD Board to ask KFD and KPD to issue red flag day and Diablo Wind Event warnings on Nixle, NextDoor, and email lists

888777 – Nixle alerts from El Cerrito, Berkeley, and Richmond. Supposedly the Kensington PD is also subscribed. Fire Departments typically are not supposedly subscribed. Mary Morris-Mayorga will talk with the KPD and Chief Pighoni to see who is responsible for managing Nixle alerts on Red Flag Days,

## 6. Future Agenda Items:



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

7. Scheduling next meeting: The next meeting tentatively will be held on August 27 at 3 PM.
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

\* Note: on their website "cwsalerts.com" says:

#### **EXTREME WEATHER INFORMATION**

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Typically, the fire season in California starts at the beginning of May and runs through November.

The National Weather Service may issue **Red Flag Warnings** due to extreme weather conditions. To check if any red flag warnings are in effect for your area please go to: <https://www.weather.gov/mtr/>

**These minutes were prepared by Kevin Padian and approved at the Committee meeting on 22 October 2020.**

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



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, September 24, 2020 3:00 – 5:00pm**

**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.

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian  
 Committee Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, David Spath  
 Staff: Mary Morris-Mayorga  
 Public: Jim Watt, Julie Stein, Lorika G, Ofc. Brad Harms (KPD)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Kevin Padian at 3:09 PM. The attendance was taken by Larry Nagel.
2. Ofc. Harms gave a report for KPD. There is a new e-mail address just for people with evacuation questions : [evac@kppcsd.org](mailto:evac@kppcsd.org). Chief Schuld and Officer Harms will be having meetings with concerned citizens. The KPD is putting together a brochure on evacuation for the public that should be released within a week. There was a question about Willamette Avenue parking orientation, which Officer Harms will look into. Lisa Coronna asked if a representative from the Fire Department will also attend the citizen meetings. Officer Harms noted that Chief Pigoni and Chief Grupalo have been heavily involved in firefighting and have not been available. Lorika G asked a question about which roads the fire department will be using so that she can avoid them. There are no specific plans.
3. Public comment on items not on the agenda: None
4. Recommendation to accept minutes from July 30 meeting (ACTION): Draft minutes were distributed but will be deferred
5. Brief reports from EPC members:

Paul Moss: Paul reported that yesterday he received a response from Chief Pigoni regarding the condominiums on Mira Vista Heights Road. Chief Pigoni is looking into

the possibility of having a camera installed and to organize the residents into a neighborhood fire watch. Paul noticed that EBRPD has removed a lot of prairie grass in Wildcat Canyon. Also the PG&E Right of way has been mowed.

Peter Guerrero: Peter reported that he will be having a meeting with Contra Costa County Fire Chief Brouchard next Tuesday. They will be discussing reaiming the camera as well as a volunteer corps of people to monitor the cameras.

Danielle Madugo: Danielle reported that she is the Kensington CERT (K3) coordinator and that she attended a meeting with Chris Hilliard (CERT Coordinator for ECFD). Chris handed out portable FRS radios so that CERT members can patrol the Wildland Urban Interface during fire weather. The Area Coorinator meeting was also attended by Hal Graboske (K6). The Great Shakeout will happen on October 15 at 10:15 AM. The link for the National Earthquake Drill is <https://www.shakeout.org/california/>. The KARO/ECHO emergency radio test will be held on October 24. The link to purchase EQ kit and water storage supplies through Lamorinda CERT is <https://www.lamorindacert.org/resource/water-2/>.

Lisa Caronna: Lisa reported on paths. Rodney Paul is conducting virtual tours of the paths. A survey of Kensington residents concerning path usage noted that evacuation is the primary interest for paths.

Larry Nagel: Larry reported that he regularly attends the EBRPD Board Meetings to stay abreast of EBRPD issues. There is a lot of pressure to reopen as much of the park as possible, and this presents challenges for cleanliness as well as fire danger.

## 6. Discussion Items

### 6.1. Changes to Kensington Traffic and Evacuation Patterns Now Completed

(INFORMATION) : Kevin Padian reported that evacuation signs have been installed in the Sunset Cemetery. The bollards have been replaced by chains for evacuating the southeast neighborhoods as well as the Hilltop School. The brochure the KPD is preparing will be helpful in educating the public.

### 6.2. Recommendation to ask the Board to request the El Cerrito Fire Department and the KPPCSD to use Nixle and NextDoor to (1) notify the public of Red Flag Days and (2) notify the public in advance of the first warning of impending Diablo Wind Events (ACTION):

Kevin reported that we would like clarity on this matter,

because different Districts use their Nixle accounts in different ways. At a recent Zoom meeting regarding evacuation plans for local areas in case of Wildfire, Supervisor John Gioia stated that evacuations would not be issued by the County but instead by local agencies (in our case, joint consultation of Kensington Police and Fire). More needs to be known about how these decisions will be made. Paul Moss noted that he brought Nixle to Kensington, and the system works. However, the last Red Flag Alert was delayed by a twelve hour delay from when the Red Flag Alert was issued and when it came out over Nixle.

- 6.3. Status of Proposal for a Pilot Program to Provide Emergency Radios to Members of the Public (DISCUSSION/ACTION): The last time the Board considered this item, they suggested that the item be postponed until we had a General Manager. Lisa Coronna suggested we need to do more research. Dave Spath agreed that we need to put more thought into a program like this.
- 6.4. Status and Future Steps for Investigating the Acquisition and Installment of Emergency Public Address Systems for Kensington (DISCUSSION): Kevin reported that we have talked with one vendor and have talked to Mill Valley who have such a system. We have been told that Berkeley and Oakland have agreed in principle to acquiring such a system, but they will need to find funding. Mary Morris-Mayorga suggested that we should check with the CSDA.
- 6.5. Status and Future Steps for Investigating the Acquisition and Installment of Emergency Public Address Systems for Kensington (DISCUSSION): Kevin reported that we have talked with one vendor and have talked to Mill Valley who have such a system. We have been told that Berkeley and Oakland have agreed in principle to acquiring such a system, but they will need to find funding. Mary Morris-Mayorga suggested that we should check with the CSDA.
- 6.6. Request for the Board to Approve Action Items Proposed by the Kensington Police Department Regarding Investigation into Potential Changes in Parking Configuration on six segments of Kensington streets, including public input, and to approve the production (no cost) of an educational video to explain the rationale for the proposed parking changes (ACTION) (supporting material): Kevin noted that the Board approved that we work with the Police Department to create a video to educate the public. The Board still needs to vote on approving

the investigation into proposed parking changes and education and consultation with the public.

6.7. Request from Emergency Preparedness Committee to Hire a Part-Time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (Discussion and possible ACTION) (supporting material): Kevin presented the idea of KFPD hiring a Part-Time Emergency Coordinator. The first step is to determine if El Cerrito has the wherewithall to run a CERT program in Kensington, much less other Emergency Preparedness items. We then need to research how our own coordinator would operate with the El Cerrito Fire Department to provide seamless CERT operation.

6.8. Preliminary calculations of the traffic load on Kensington's streets during an emergency evacuation with little warning; implications for educating residents (DISCUSSION): Kevin reviewed a study done by the state of ZIP codes in the state that are most at risk.

7. Future Agenda Items: None

8. Scheduling next meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 22 at 3 PM.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Kevin Padian at 5:23 PM.

**These minutes were prepared by Kevin Padian and approved at the Committee meeting on 22 October 2020.**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Preparedness Committee Member