



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, January 27, 2022 3:00pm-5:00pm  
Via Zoom Teleconference

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian  
Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, David Spath  
Staff: General Manager Bill Hansell  
Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of December 2, 2021 (Approve)

**MOTION:** Spath/Caronna to accept the minutes as corrected.

Motion adopted by consensus.

**4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**a. Report on last KFPD Board Meeting**

Kevin gave a report on the last KFPD Board meeting. Chief Pigoni gave a detailed report on the planning for an evacuation drill which hopefully will happen in early Spring. Kevin started to report on parking issues but ran out of time and the Board did not want to extend the meeting beyond 10 PM. In the future, Kevin wants to have specific agenda items in new business so that there will be ample time to discuss them, and leave his EPC committee report at the end for a short general summary. Kevin also thanked EPC members for the attendance at Board meetings.

**b. Committee to investigate formation of a JPA (Peter Guerrero)**

Peter Guerrero reported that he and Bill Hansell attended the January JPA Formation meeting and the next meeting will be next Friday. Some of the attendees think a JPA would be beneficial, and some thought it would not be. Berkeley and ConFire Chief Broschard are in the latter group. Peter thinks the JPA formation would be very beneficial to Kensington because of economies of scale, especially in evacuation planning and fuel reduction. Oakland and Richmond also seem to be on board. Bill noted his role is to gather information for the Board and he is neither an advocate nor an opponent. Bill feels the most important element of the planning is a very thorough

gap analysis to determine what is needed and what is overlap. Bill talked with David Early from Placeworks who wanted to get Bill's input on whether a JPA was worth pursuing.

Peter noted that the JPA Committee is committed to meeting on the first Friday of the month until the summer and the February meeting will concentrate on a gap analysis. Peter noted that Chief Broschard said at the last meeting that he was not convinced that a case had been made for a JPA. Peter stated that he wished Chief Pignoni was on this meeting so that he could weigh in.

Peter will be creating a draft list of the gaps that need to be filled for review by EPC members and then presentation at the next JPA meeting.

Peter also noted that John Gioia had mentioned that there was \$4M of county money allocated for fuel reduction.

Dave Spath stated that he is not convinced a JPA would be beneficial and agreed that more study is needed. Dave asked if EBRPD and EBMUD are part of this conversation because their input is vital.

Lisa Caronna stated that it is essential to have a gap study to determine if a JPA is useful. She is concerned that having a JPA without Berkeley might be problematic because they are our neighbor and we would therefore be competing with our neighbor. Lisa also noted a large chunk of the \$4M in county funds was allocated for keeping fire stations open.

Peter Guerrero noted that nobody is yet to the point of advocating for a JPA. If the EPC and the KFPD Board wants Peter to advocate for a JPA he will be happy to do so.

Peter will be creating a draft list of the gaps that need to be filled for review by EPC members and then presentation at the next JPA. The gaps that Peter has identified are evacuation planning and vegetation management.

Bill Hansell noted that Supervisor Gioia will be attending the next KFPD Board meeting to discuss the \$4M allocation. Bill also noted that Berkeley has just hired people to work on vegetation management and are very interested in the Cerrito Canyon project.

Dave Spath noted that El Cerrito should also be involved in pursuing grants, especially since we share a WUI with El Cerrito.

Larry Nagel asked if we were confusing the \$4M allocation with Measure X money that was specifically intended for refurbishing or replacing firehouses in the county.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Emergency radios**

Kevin noted that Chief Pignoni introduced him to Neil Bregman, the Emergency Preparedness Manager for Santa Rosa. Neil was responsible for spearheading the FEMA hazard mitigation grant for \$320K, and the city of Santa Rosa funded another \$106K. This allowed them to purchase 12,000 Midland radios. Neil agreed that

announcements over NOAA would be more regional and Neil did not think the radios would be very useful for Kensington because they would not provide local information; rather, they would address more county-wide disasters.

Kevin noted that Chris Hilliard and Johnny Valenzuela are attempting to distribute 10 emergency radios to Kensington citizens, obtained through the CERT program by Chris, and that there could be 10 more. These radios would be distributed through the KPSC and would not involve either the KPPCSD or the KFPD.

Katie Gluck confirmed that the KPSC would be able to handle the distribution of the radios

Johnny noted that he and Chris intended to follow up with the citizens, with their permission, to make sure that the radios were working out.

**b. Other committee member reports**

Paul Moss reported on a new disaster alerting system, PhonEvite, that is presently used by Cortis Cooper for the Wildcat Watch Group. You establish a roster of people and can communicate with each other for as little as 5 cents a call.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Proposed renomination of EPC members for 2022**

Kevin asked everyone if they were willing to serve another year and no members declined. Kevin thanked everyone for their help.

**b. Initiative to organize Kensington communities** to raise awareness about emergency preparation, evacuation (including drills), and caring for those who will need help; plan for activities and materials; proposal to Board for support (potential Action)

Kevin stated that with summer coming on and COVID waning, hopefully we can start neighborhood meetings for emergency awareness.

Johnny reported that he is working on getting together with existing neighborhood groups, mainly CERT groups. Johnny reviewed some campaigns for education, recruiting, and training.

Johnny stated that Chris Hilliard is working on contacting people who completed the survey.

Johnny noted that he met with Jim Yoke from Richmond. They are working on an evacuation drill.

David Spath agreed that preparedness works best on a block basis.

**c. Next steps in researching Outdoor Emergency Public Address Systems**

Proposal to establish a sub-committee to answer major questions, collect information, and plan to assess the views of residents on the issue (potential Action)

Kevin reported that Southern Marin County is replacing their sirens with new EPAs, San Francisco is replacing theirs, and Berkeley is moving forward on installing theirs.

Kevin asked for volunteers to establish a sub-committee to investigate the acquisition of EPAs in Kensington. David Spath and Katie Gluck volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

Katie stated that she is very frustrated with this committee because it has taken so long to get a working plan on the possible acquisition of EPAs. David Spath noted that he wanted to know how and when the EPAs are used. Members were asked to submit any questions about EPAs to Kevin and he will forward them to Katie.

**7. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Johnny Valenzuela reviewed his plans for possible ways of conducting meetings with the public.

**8. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**None**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on February 27, 2022 at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM by Kevin Padian.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on February 27, 2022.

Attest:



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**Emergency Preparedness Committee Member**