



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
Thursday, March 17, 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  
Guest: Joe Grupalo, Zonehaven

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This place on the agenda is reserved for comments and inquiries concerning matters that do not otherwise appear on the agenda.

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Items listed below are consent items, which are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. Reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent item designations to the various items have been received and considered. Copies of the reports are on file in the Fire Protection District Administrative Office at 217 Arlington Avenue and are available to the public. The disposition of the item is indicated. There will be no separate discussion of consent items. If discussion is requested for an item, that item will be removed from the list of consent items and considered separately on the agenda. (Supporting material)

**a. Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of February 24, 2022 (Approve)

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

Motion passed unanimously

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Emergency Public Address (EPA) Systems and Zonehaven**

Discussion of the deployment and coordination of EPA devices with Zonehaven's Joe Grupalo, former battalion chief of EC-K Fire Department (see attached report from Joe Grupalo, plus updated Q&A submitted by Board Members).

Kevin introduced the topic by saying the discussion would cover how EPAs work, and how they are activated. Kevin mentioned that Meredith, Lorraine, and Heather have left CWS and Julie Cavallero will now head up the CWS effort.

Joe was asked at the request of some EPC members because he is so familiar with the Zonehaven system (Zonehaven has merged with Genasys, an EPA provider, but our discussion would not be specific to Genasys (Joe is on the Zonehaven side, not the Genasys side).

Danielle Madugo asked if the Berkeley EPAs are installed yet and when can we see them. Joe said the Berkeley EPA system has been ordered but it is not yet installed.

Lisa Caronna asked when and how the EPAs would be activated. Specifically, who would create the messages. Joe stated that the Fire Department and Police Department would be responsible for requesting the activation of the system and would supply the content of messages and non-verbal sounds to the OES, which would activate the devices remotely.

Bill Hansell noted that when there was a fire in Lucas Valley he had no problem hearing the EPS system even though it was a very windy night.

David Spath asked about how the EPA systems address overlap. Joe noted that the speakers are spaced according to topology, not zones. In talking with Berkeley Fire Department Chief May, the systems can be interconnected to allow communities to share systems.

Kevin noted that unless we get a waiver, we need an open bidding process so we are talking to other EPA vendors as well. The job of the EPC is to do research and gather data.

Paul Moss asked which public properties would we use for placing EPAs.

Kevin asked Robert Rogers (John Gioia's office) about what precedents are set about placing EPAs on public lands (school grounds, parks, median strips, etc., according to the best topological placements). Robert and Sup. Gioia prefer that their office handle these inquiries with County offices. They will follow up. Joe Grupalo testified that it is much easier to work on public than on private lands.

Danielle Madugo asked about which areas have conducted drills using an EPA system. Joe mentioned that the speakers are tested every month.

Peter Liddell asked about placement of the sirens. Peter stated that the county has an easement of eight feet from every road.

Peter mentioned that the EPA system would be useful for an earthquake for informing the public of evacuation routes that are still viable.

Dave Spath asked about the vulnerability of the devices to wildfire. Joe mentioned that as long as the vegetation management is good, the devices should survive.

Dave Spath asked about satellite speakers and what service they use. Joe did not have specifics, but could provide the information on consultation with Genasys (he could not speak for other providers).

Dave asked about coordination between CWS and Genasys EPAs. The LRAD system was used as a secondary system, with CWS being used as the primary. Joe responded that Zonehaven does directly send messages out to the public. This is illustrated on the slides Joe provided (see attached).

Lisa Caronna asked about the cost. Joe stated that Berkeley contract is for \$2M, which comes to \$130K per speaker (except installation). Maintenance is a few thousand per year per speaker.

Danielle Madugo noted that there is a parking lot behind the school that belongs to Richmond. It is therefore a public space that could be considered as a site.

Danielle Madugo asked about Everbridge. Joe answered that Everbridge does the alerting software and partners with Genasys. Everbridge also owns Nixle. Other alerting vendors include CodeRed and Blackberry.

Kevin noted that he promised Chief Pigoni that he would ask how important it is to “know your zone.” The premise is that if there is an emergency, people will be warned on their phones and other devices to evacuate, shelter in place, etc. They will not be told “Zone 8, evacuate.” Joe agreed, and we discussed how “knowing your zone” gives you an idea of your neighborhood that will be alerted all at once, which is useful for planning evacuation routes, and so on.

Public comment from Katya de Neergaard. She asked how tall the poles are, and the answer is 40 feet (and 20 feet below ground). She also asked if people not signed up for Zonehaven can use the Zonehaven software. The answer is

yes. She also asked if Zonehaven has any other software.

Public comment from Linnea Due asked whether the systems provide a warning sound and a voice message. The answer is yes, and usually a non-verbal sound is produced first to alert people that verbal information is forthcoming (for example, after an earthquake to advise people of closed roads, downed electrical wires, etc.).

Danielle Madugo asked if Genasys speakers could be used for earthquake warning systems.

Bill Hansell noted that he has checked into the Laguna Beach RFP and that state has. It's not clear that we can sole source like Berkeley did.

**b. EPAs: Information about acquisition and deployment in Mill Valley, Laguna Beach, Berkeley, etc.**

See attached information from Brendan Manning (LB), two reports from Berkeley, and refer to previous Q&As on MV)

Kevin spoke about the Laguna Beach experience. They were able to activate only a few areas to start an evacuation. They don't use Zonehaven but they have a local system to activate their Genasys devices. They told us that the only people who did not hear instructions clearly were in an unincorporated area that declined installation of the devices; but they still heard them from other quarters.

Paul Moss asked about how Laguna Beach determined that their experience with the EPA system was a success. Dave Spath noted that Laguna Beach will follow up on the experience.

**MOTION:** Nagel/Spath to recommend to the board that the district create an RFP for the design of an EPA system for Kensington.

Motion adopted by consensus without objection

**c. EPAs: Plan to educate and survey residents**

Proposal to finalize and distribute an educational document and survey to residents

Kevin started the discussion of the need for a survey to educate the public on our research and to gauge public opinion on the need for an installation of a EPA system. It turns out the survey was inadvertently omitted from the agenda

packet, but it was included in the agenda packet for the last meeting.

Peter Guerrero suggested that a public meeting would be more effective than a survey or, at the very least, should precede the survey.

Paul Moss noted that the survey is not just research but it also is a way of publicizing EPA systems and gaining community response.

It was decided to solicit a final round of comments from EPC members, given our discussion, and then to notify the Board at its next meeting that we would be conducting research in the community through the survey, after which we would present the results to the Board along with a request to authorize an RFP, if appropriate

**d. Proposal to reboot and expand KFPD “replanting” grant program**

Initial consideration (action to be postponed to next meeting) of keeping pace with other communities, State, and insurance companies on incentives for clearing hazardous brush and other plants (draft proposal attached)

Kevin explained the replanting grant program and noted that he wanted to “reboot” the program and increase the funding level of the program. Kevin suggested that we instruct Bill Hansell to put forward an agenda item to ask the KFPD Board to reconstitute the program.

**MOTION:** Nagel/Caronna to ask General Manager Bill Hansell to reboot the replanting program

Motion adopted by consensus without objection

**6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR’S REPORT**

No further report

**7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None

**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 April 28, 2022 at 3:00pm via Zoom Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 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 April 28, 2022.

Attest:

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**Emergency Preparedness Committee Member**

**DRAFT**