



## Kensington Fire Protection District

### Application to Serve on the KFPD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Name : Danielle Madugo Date : May 13, 2020  
 (Please do not supply private contact information; this document is accessible to the public.)

I am a Kensington resident aged 18 or over

Areas of interest (check all that apply) :

- Evacuation preparation
- Emergency notification (remote sensing/cameras, sirens, cell towers, radios, phones)
- Path ownership, clearing, etc.  
 Articulation with other agencies (County, Parks, FireSafe Councils, other towns)
- Hazard mitigation (education about hazardous plants, house-hardening, etc.)
- CERT training and network formation  
 Development of FireSafe neighborhood designations
- Public education about emergency preparedness and other topics
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain your experience AND current efforts in your areas of interest :

I am a research and consulting geologist (unlicensed) specializing in earthquake geology, seismic hazard studies and assessment. I'm currently working as a visiting assistant project scientist at UCLA's Garrick Institute for Risk to help compile a new fault displacement database used for probabilistic fault hazard studies. I also work with Earth Consultants International doing fault and landslide hazard evaluations on a project basis.

If named to the Committee, what would be your goals and objectives for your first year?

- 1) Help create/give input towards response/evacuation plans for different hazards (EQ, fire, landslides, etc.)
- 2) Promote installing an emergency siren and/or fire camera in our community
- 3) Push for better cell coverage in Kensington to aid in receipt of emergency notifications
- 4) Use my GIS knowledge to create helpful materials, assessments and maps for Kensington residents
- 5) Use my earthquake geology background to inform the committee about what to expect in an earthquake on the Hayward fault, e.g., shaking, localization of surface rupture, shaking-induced landsliding, etc.
- 6) Re-energize my block CERT representatives and learn more about the program
- 7) Share my current household methods and strategies for emergency preparedness and evacuation and explore new ones to possibly implement at home and in the community (Pulsepoint, AC Alert/CC Alert, EQ prep supplies, etc.)

Thanks for your interest. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Committee size is limited.  
 Please email your application to [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org).

EPC meeting, 27 May 2020

Item for discussion and possible recommendation to Board (ACTION):

The Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) recommends to the KFPD the following actions:

1. Accept the Kensington Evacuation Research Project Final Report dated January 8, 2020 prepared by Stephen Wong, Ian Martin, and Jeremy Halpern and thank them for the comprehensive work as well as their presentations to the public.
2. Accept the general findings and recommendations in the report and delegate the further exploration of the recommendations to the Emergency Preparedness Committee. This includes activities such as: research and meetings with the General Managers and Chiefs of the KFPD and KPPCSD; relevant agencies including Contra Costa County, EBMUD, adjacent local cities and others public agencies as determined; private entities such as the Sunset View Cemetery; and the public.
3. Where feasible and at no or very low cost (under \$5,000) to the District, implement recommendations such as emergency gate openings at Sunset View Cemetery, EBMUD properties, and removable bollards at Hilltop School, and document the procedures established for their activation.
4. Report back to the Board on the research and implementation issues on a regular basis and as needed for policy direction, budgetary issues or other action by the KFPD board.

Background:

The Kensington Evacuation Research Project prepared January 8, 2020 analyzes street conditions and traffic patterns under differing scenarios to develop an actionable evacuation plan in the event of a major disaster. The report identifies 43 recommendations in key areas of: Literature and Evacuation Plan Review, Field Survey and Network Analysis. The recommendations include a wide range of complexity and potential cost. They range from policies, procedures and coordination with adjacent agencies to physical changes in traffic movement, parking and infrastructure improvements. While some of the recommendation will be easier to implement and others not feasible or cost prohibitive, the EPC feels they all deserve serious consideration.

It is the desire of the EPC to move forward with the most feasible recommendations as soon as possible and in advance of the 2020 fire season. While the EPC realizes this is a multi-year project for many of the more complicated recommendations and especially those requiring public input and participation, some recommendations could move forward more quickly and it is recommended that they be implemented as soon as possible.

### **Initial priority list of traffic evacuation study recommendations**

Overall recommendation: Present a list of potential priorities to the KFPD Board and ask, not that they try to decide which are most important, but that they agree that the EPC discuss possible plans of action (most of which will involve the County) with the Fire Chief and the Police Chief (or their representatives), who will have greatest experience of County interactions.

A. Parking and driving recommendations: permanent.

1. Identify intersections and pinch points that need to be painted red (no parking anytime) for request to the County. Work with KPD on this.

2. Identify street segments where two-sided parking should be reduced to one-sided parking at all times for request to the County. Work with KPD on this.

3. Identify street segments that should be changed permanently from two-way to one-way for request to the County. Work with KPD on this.

4. Identify street segments that have the direction of its parking changed permanently for request to the County. Work with KPD on this.

B. Parking and driving recommendations: seasonal. Identify potential changes reflected in the four items above that should be applied to other street segments during Red Flag Days and Diablo Wind Events, for request to the County. Work with KPD on this. Emergency declarations during RFDs and DWEs include enforced off-street parking (nose-out) on one or both sides of the street.

C. Improve intersection signage with yield signs as appropriate. Work with KPD on this.

D. Investigate the feasibility of gutter gratings on especially stressed street segments, particularly those critical for hillside evacuation (Beloit, Purdue, Kenyon, Wellesley, Williamette, Kenyon, Westminster, Cambridge, Yale, and Amherst).

E. Discuss with cemetery owners possible scenarios for an emergency evacuation should residents decide to pass through its Sunset Ave gate, as visualized by traffic consultants. Offer to provide small reflective signs at two T-intersections to help drivers both in normal times and during emergencies to get through the cemetery efficiently. Clarify procedures for unlocking gate.

F. Determine if and how the gate at the Summit Reservoir may be opened in case of emergency.

G. Establishing street signs at intersections for preferred/necessary evacuation routes.

- H. Using CERT-trained community people as traffic coordinators during emergencies.
- I. Look into the access and control of bollards around Kensington Park and from the end of Lake Drive to upper Purdue. Possibly replace with openable gates.
- J. Work with the KPD to install a tripped traffic light at the intersection of the Arlington and Sunset that would permit northbound traffic to evacuate onto Sunset from the Arlington. Absent any control at this treacherous intersection is a recipe for accidents during an evacuation, resulting in blockage to a major evacuation route.
- K. There are only a few combinations of streets that are critical for hillside evacuation (Beloit, Purdue, Kenyon, Wellesley, Williamette, Kenyon, Westminster, Cambridge, Yale, and Amherst). Unfortunately, many of them contain the deep curb cuts that render safe passage a challenge in an emergency. While metal grates could be one fix, this could also involve further study and engineering to explore more permanent fixes. We should ask the county and/or state to conduct a study with detailed cost estimates.

## **Toward an East Bay Wildfire Prevention Vegetation Management Agency**

It is time for a new, more effective, regional approach if the East Bay Hills are to be safe from future wildfires. This is in support of using the Joint Powers Authority process to address the wildfire threat posed by inadequate vegetation management in the hills of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Today, local government agencies are responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires in urbanized areas and counties are responsible for unincorporated areas. But wildfires cross jurisdictional boundaries involving multiple cities and counties.

Wildfires move at hurricane speeds and force, with winds from 60 to 100 mph, fast enough to jump huge freeways. It took only one hour for the Berkeley Oakland Tunnel Fire to move from the Berkeley Hills across the Highway 24 freeway to destroy homes in the Upper Rockridge area of Oakland. To the north, it took only four hours for the Tubbs Fire to move from the Napa Valley to Santa Rosa. To the south, the Thomas Fire moved from Ventura to Santa Barbara, jumping a 15-lane freeway. Once started, extinguishing wildfires often is no longer possible, leaving evacuation as the only answer. Evacuation times are often measured in minutes, or less.

Since they are impossible to stop once they get going, preventing wildfires becomes our only choice. In Alameda County alone, there are 14 separate cities. If vegetation in our area is to be well managed to reduce the threat of wildfire, the necessary expertise, workforce and financial resources must be assembled over a broad enough area to be effective. Local agencies with all their present responsibilities unfortunately lack sufficient breadth and resources to adequately address the problem. Coordinating vegetation management among all the East Bay local public agencies is an impossible challenge without a mechanism to lead that effort.

Just as we have special districts in the Bay Area to manage air quality, water quality, and regional planning and transportation, it is time to create a wildfire prevention district to manage vegetation and dramatically reduce the fuel that causes the spread of wildfires in our wildland urban interface. Local government agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa counties can create a joint powers authority to accomplish this.

An East Bay Wildfire Prevention and Vegetation Management Agency would

- (1) Develop a plan to reduce the most flammable wildlands vegetation in the East Bay Hills to the maximum extent feasible and to replace it with wildfire resistant vegetation where appropriate.
- (2) The plan would protect sensitive wildlife habitats and native plant landscapes.

(3) The plan would include a "Defensible Space" program to aid owners of private property with information resources to manage vegetation on their properties.

(4) The plan would include a "Home Hardening" program to advise homeowners, schools and commercial property owners on how their structures can be protected from wildfires.

5) Raise funds by applying for state and federal grants, preparing tax measures for voter approval and other means permitted by law.

6) Implement the plan by retaining sufficient staff and equipment and/or by contracting with others to remove the most flammable vegetation in wildland areas and to implement the public information programs for defensible space and home hardening.

An added benefit of a district that addresses this problem may be that the current difficulties many property owners are facing with either cancellation of their homeowner insurance policies or huge rate increases due to increased fire risks would be lessened.

*Claremont Canyon Conservancy*  
*Garber Park Stewards*  
*Kensington Neighbors for Wildfire*  
*Safety*  
*Kensington Public Safety Council*  
*Make El Cerrito Fire Safe*  
*Montclair Neighborhood Council*  
*North Hills Community Association*  
*Oakland Firesafe Council*  
*Oakland Landscape Committee*  
*Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Assn.*  
*Sierra Club East Bay Public Lands*  
*Committee*  
*South Hills Beat 35Y*

# 2020 Chipper Schedule

The City crew will make two passes on each street to chip branches and collect bagged vegetation placed on the side of the road. Please refer to the table below and map for the scheduled chipper / pickup dates for your area.

Area & Pass Dates	Borders Street Centerline
<b>1</b> (1) JUN 1-5 (2) JUL 27-31	Spruce, Marin, Sunset to City limit (odds) Grizzly Peak (evens)
<b>2</b> (1) JUN 8-12 (2) AUG 3-7	Grizzly Peak to City limit (odds) Sunset (evens)
<b>3</b> (1) JUN 15-19 (2) AUG 10-14	Euclid, Rose, Shasta, (odds) Marin, Grizzly Peak (evens)
<b>4</b> (1) JUN 22-26 (2) AUG 17-21	Euclid, Cedar (odds) Shasta, Rose, UCB, Grizzly Peak (evens)
<b>5</b> (1) JUN 29-JUL 2 (2) AUG 24-28	Henry, Rose, Spruce, Cedar, Scenic, Hilgard, Euclid, Hearst to UCB (odds) Cedar @ La Vereda, Euclid & Eunice (evens)
<b>6</b> (1) JUL 6-10 (2) AUG 31-SEP 4	Sutter, Eunice (odds) Marin, Euclid (evens)
<b>7</b> (1) JUL 13-17 (2) SEP 8-11	Arlington, Marin (odds) Spruce (evens)
<b>8</b> (1) JUL 20-24 (2) SEP 14-18	North: Canyon, Piedmont, Dwight to end (odds) Bancroft (evens)  South: Domingo, El Camino Real, Claremont to City limit (odds) The Uplands (evens)

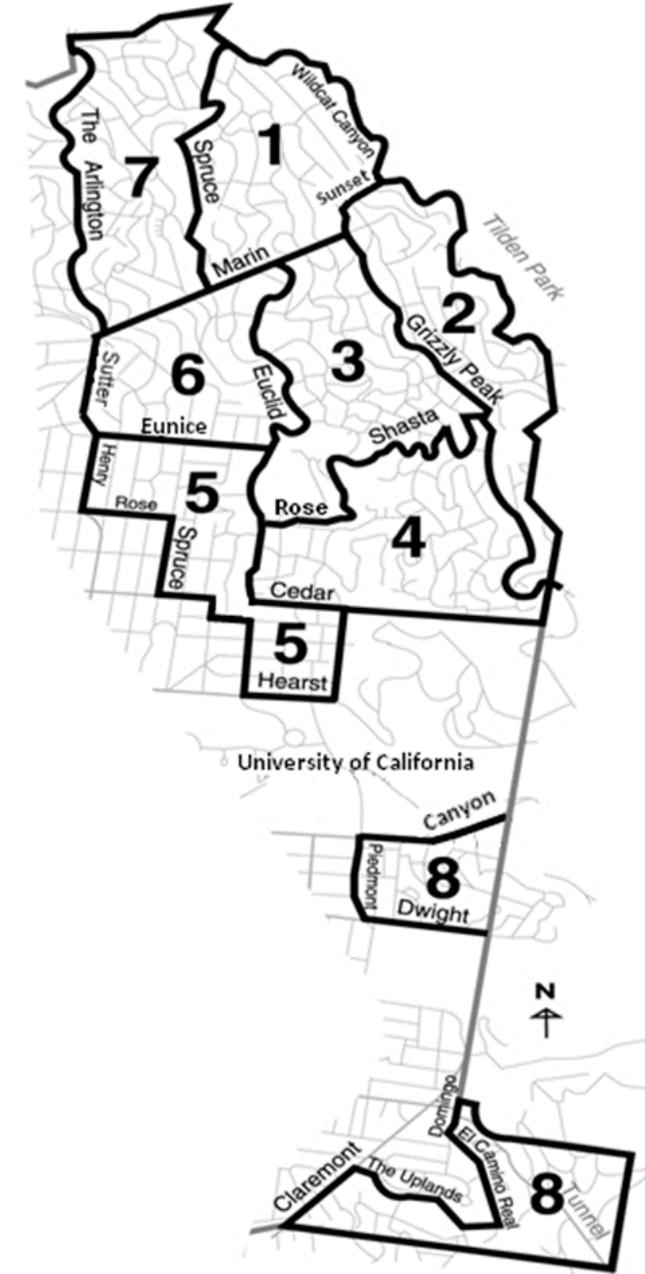
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Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department  
Parks Division - Forestry Unit  
1326 Allston Way, Bldg A  
Berkeley, California 94702



# Item 5.6

This year's Fire Fuel Chipper and Vegetation Debris Bin Program will begin on **Monday, June 1, 2020** and end on **Friday, September 18, 2020**.



2020 Fire Fuel Chipper Program & Vegetation Debris Bin Program

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR **BAGGING** Vegetation

**1** Free bio-plastic compostable bags (fifteen per residence) may be picked up at the following four City of Berkeley Fire Stations from 8:00am to 5:00pm, every day of the week and from the Parks Division Office at the City's Corporation Yard, Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:00pm.

Station #2 - 2029 Berkeley Way

Station #3 - 2710 Russell Street

Station #4 - 1900 Marin Avenue

Station #7 - 3000 Shasta Road

Parks Division Office - 1326 Allston Way

**2** Loose vegetation must be put in bio-plastic compostable bags and weigh less than 25 lbs.

### IMPORTANT

- **Use the free bio-plastic compostable bags!**
- Bag ALL Poison Oak.
- **DO NOT** drag cut branches through poison oak or stack branches on areas with poison oak. Such branches will not be chipped or picked up.
- **DO NOT** include: lumber, soil, rocks, concrete or garbage. Bag vegetation only.
- **Carefully inspect the area before pruning for active bird nests.** Leave nests undisturbed and reschedule the vegetation cutting. Laws protect nests, eggs and birds.
- **Non-compostable bags will NOT be picked up.** Bags must meet ASTM D-6400-04 Standard Specification for Compostable Plastics.

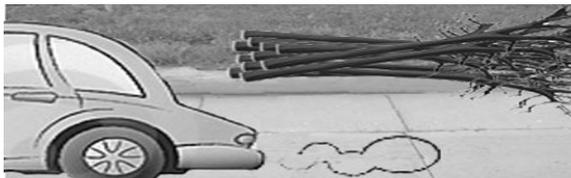


## INSTRUCTIONS FOR **STACKING** Vegetation

**1** Have all vegetation ready no later than **Monday morning** for pickup any time during the week assigned to your area. Place all vegetation as close to the street as possible. Do not block fire hydrants. Avoid parking directly in front of the piles. Piles must be visible from street.

**2** Make sure all brush set out for chipping is free of metal objects such as nails, or fencing. Metal objects run through a brush chipper could seriously injure the chipper operator and will damage the chipper.

**3** Branches for chipping must be less than 5 inches in diameter. (Keep piles less than 4 feet high.) **DO NOT include any poison oak in brush piles.** Stack branches neatly, with all cut ends facing in the same direction as vehicle traffic travels. Piles from commercial pruning jobs will not be chipped.



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR **PILING** Loose Vegetation

**1** Keep ivy separated from other vegetation. Break apart piles of ivy or other vines and stack loosely (un-bagged) in a separate pile.

**2** Keep Palm fronds and Bamboo shoots separated from other vegetation.

### IMPORTANT

Vegetation is only picked up at properties where a surcharge fee has been collected. This does not apply to vacant land.

## Extra Plant Debris Info

Your regularly scheduled curbside plant debris pickup will still occur. If you have extra plant debris material for the weekly curbside pickup, pre-paid paper plant-debris bags are available at all Berkeley Fire Stations. The free bio-plastic compostable bags for the Fire Fuel Chipper Program **cannot** be used in the regular curbside plant debris program. For information, visit <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/PlantDebris>

## Fire Fuel Vegetation Bin Program

- 1** To reserve a vegetation debris bin, call the Customer Service Center at **981-7270**, between 8:00am and 5:00pm. Please be prepared with alternative dates, to permit effective scheduling.
- 2** Vegetation debris bins can hold up to 30 cubic yards and will be available for drop-off on Tuesday and Friday. Bins left by 5:00pm on Tuesday will be picked up by Noon on Friday. Bins left by 5:00pm on Friday will be picked up by Noon on Tuesday.
- 3** All bins delivered are placed in the public right-of-way and are available for everyone in the neighborhood regardless of who ordered the bin.

### IMPORTANT

These bins are to be used for vegetation only – no lumber, plastic, dirt, rocks, concrete or household trash.

A limited number of vegetation bins are available each week so please share the bin with your neighbors. Bins may not be able to be placed at the ordering address.

If you have any questions, please call the Customer Service Center at 981-7270, between 8:00am and 5:00pm or email [trees@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:trees@cityofberkeley.info)

Thank you for your efforts to reduce fire hazards in our community!