



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DATE: April 13, 2022

TO: Board of Directors
Kensington Fire Protection District

RE: **Agenda Item 09**
General Manager's Report

SUBMITTED BY: Bill Hansell, General Manager

Highlights of the regular business and other special projects for the district by management are noted below:

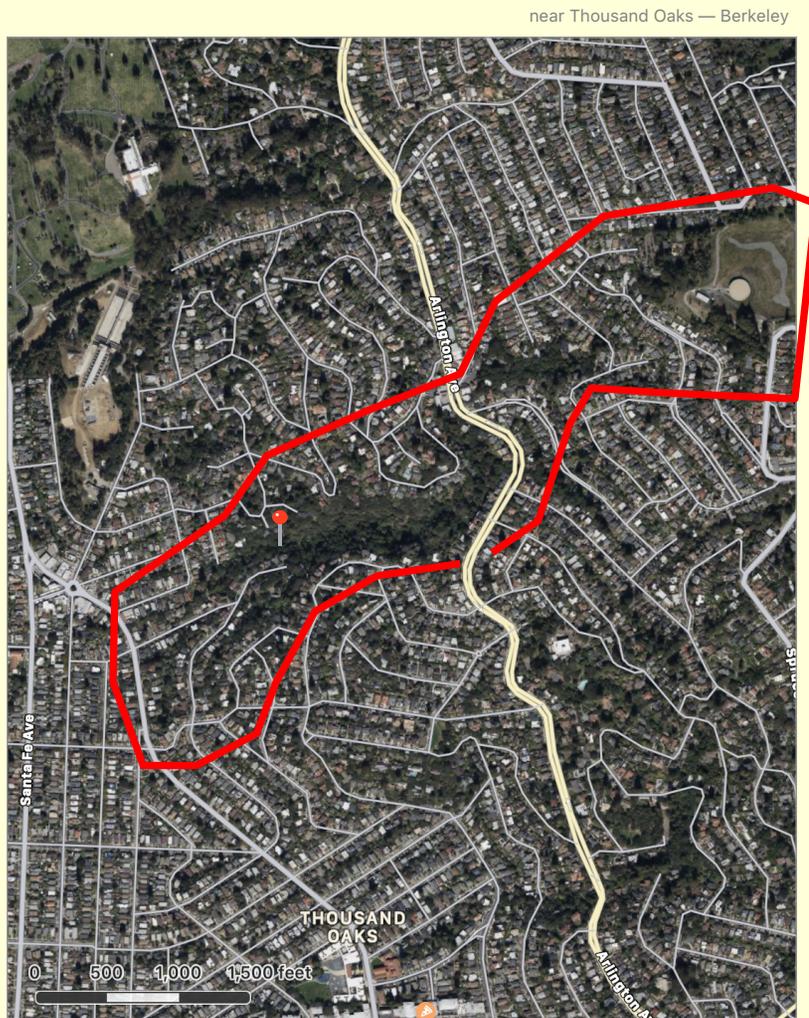
- 1. Cerrito Canyon Fuel Reduction Project** – Chief Pigoni and I met with HEF and Berkeley FD staff on the potential Cerrito Canyon Fuel Reduction Project, re: attached summary sheet. The need for vegetation management in the canyon and the impact of potential wildfire in the area is substantial and obviously affects both Kensington and Berkeley equally. Initially, I contacted Berkeley FD to see if we could jointly apply for HMGP funding to address the problem. This led to utilizing HEF as a forum to move our collaboration forward. The focus of the most recent meeting was on potential funding mechanisms. One possibility is from the Coastal Conservancy, while another is from CalFire. We discussed the steps necessary to prepare for applications, including the formation of FireWise communities of the residents bordering the canyon. This is an excellent opportunity to show a cross-county, multi-jurisdictional effort. Our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator has started work on the FireWise outreach and our staff will continue to work with Berkeley FD and HEF on the next steps. We recognize that there are various intricacies to the mitigation, including sensitivity to natural habitats and erosion control measures, so the project will require an extensive amount of research prior to more detailed plans and schedules.
- 2. East Bay Wildfire Prevention and Vegetation Management JPA** – The JPA formation study group had its fourth meeting on April 1st, 2022. Chief Pigoni and I attended as well as EPC member Peter Guerrero. A presentation was given by the subcommittee consisting of representative fire chiefs, politicians, and residents from within the larger body, and the suggestion was made to investigate whether the expansion of the Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) might be the first step in achieving the intent of the JPA proponents. The attached letter was drafted, reviewed, and sent to HEF. At HEF's April 12th, 2022 meeting, the letter was presented and discussed by the member agency representatives. I attended that meeting and commented on the suggestions. The HEF members decided to discuss the proposal individually with their agency heads and to reconvene at a subsequent meeting to agree upon a response.
- 3. Adoption of Fee Schedule Ordinance** – Last month, the first reading of the Fee Schedule Ordinance was completed. I was notified by our legal counsel that we need further backup materials for our records that substantiate the cost analysis. I am working with Chief Pigoni to obtain those from the County. After that step is complete, I will

publish the required newspaper notice for the adoption hearing to take place during a subsequent BOD meeting.

- 4. California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting (CUPCCA) Act –**
Last month, my report included information the CUPCCA Act, which allows public entities to use an informal bidding process that is less burdensome than typical formal bidding. Under our current Public Contract Code conditions, we are required to bid any project over \$25K. By adopting a resolution to follow the CUPCCA Act, we would be able to negotiate contracts up to \$60K directly, and could follow informal bidding procedures for projects up to \$200K. Anything over \$200K would require normal bidding procedures. I included an FAQ in my prior report covering details on the process, and a list of participating agencies. There are 1,473 currently registered with CUPCCA in California and approximately 45 in Contra Costa County alone. I did not receive any questions or comments on the Act, but there was not enough time to include a resolution on this month's agenda. I will endeavor to do that for the May BOD meeting.
- 5. Grant Writer Activity –** I exchanged further communications with our grant writer, Engineering Solutions Services (ESS), regarding my concerns about needing more comprehensive assistance than they provide, e.g. providing the background materials for applications such as project descriptions, budgets, and schedules instead of just informing us of grant listings and forwarding the application forms. We did not come to an agreement on that issue, nor on the quality of their services to date, particularly with communications about the HMGP funding that they referred us to for the PSB Renovation Project. I received an invoice for their services in January and February totaling \$7,527.50, but do not believe the charges are justified relative to the work product I was aware of during that time. I have asked them for more specific details on the billing, and am no longer am confident in continuing our contract with them. I intend to return to some of the prior contacts I made during the RFP process to see if there are more suitable consultants that can meet our needs.
- 6. EBRPD Wildfire Mitigation and Safe, Resilient Forests and Communities Project –**
At the request of the EBRPD and in keeping with the District's emergency preparedness goals, I submitted the attached funding support letter to Senator Padilla. EBRPD sent the request to all of the HEF agencies and it is an example of our efforts to collaborate on mutually beneficial projects, even at the ancillary support level.
- 7. Form 700 Filings –** Filings from all of the board directors and EPC members were sent to the County and are complete. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
- 8. Education Requirements –** There are still outstanding requirements, although I did receive a number of verifications last month that I am still filing.
- 9. GASB 75 Work –** I confirmed with Nicolay Consulting Group that their data request for actuarial services will arrive in May and the delivery timeframe will be late October.

Project Collaboration:

Potential project Cerrito Canyon



Goal: Reduce hazardous fuel loads on private property in Berkeley and Kensington (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties) along Cerrito Creek/ in Cerrito Canyon area.

Potential HEF Partners

- Berkeley
- El Cerrito
- Kensington

Project Components

- Support residents to develop a Firewise Community around Cerrito Creek + refine boundaries.
- Assist with assessment to identify hazardous fuel reduction goals and opportunities. Work with property owners.
- Identify support and incentives options for homeowners to work collectively to reduce hazardous fuels and harden homes.
- Seek additional project partners and funding.

April 4, 2022

Fire Marshal Todd LaBerge
Chair, Hills Emergency Forum

Ms. Cheryl Miller
Hills Emergency Forum Staff

Dear Fire Marshal LaBerge and Ms. Miller:

As the Hills Emergency Forum well knows, wildfire is a regional problem that affects all of the jurisdictions and fire districts in the East Bay Hills. With this in mind, the Oakland Firesafe Council (OFSC) and a host of other resident groups have been working for the past three years to enhance the ways that local jurisdictions and fire districts cooperate on regional fire prevention efforts.

Since December 2021, OFSC and a citizens' committee have been convening monthly meetings of elected officials and fire officials from throughout the East Bay Hills to discuss formation of an entity that would coordinate regional fire prevention work. So far, we have held four meetings with attendance by over 40 individuals, and two meetings of a smaller 'working group' consisting of five elected officials and six fire chiefs.

The group recognizes that the Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) was conceived of, operates, and has effectively executed these same objectives since the tragic Tunnel Fire in 1991. At the most recent meeting of the larger group on April 1, all representatives in attendance (see attached list) agreed to propose to the HEF that the HEF be augmented to enhance collaboration and explore potential new wildfire prevention funding opportunities. While this letter is signed by the co-chairs of the citizens' committee, it has been reviewed by representatives of various jurisdictions who were nominated at the April 1 meeting, namely Fire Chiefs Brannigan, Montoya and Winnacker, Supervisor Gioia, and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Wengraf.

The proposal includes three key points:

- HEF membership would be expanded. The Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa, all municipalities and fire districts in the East Bay Hills wildfire risk area extending from Pinole to Fremont, and other entities such as Caltrans and PG&E would be invited to join.
- The HEF's existing meetings of key fire officials discussing operational issues would continue, with participation by the fire officials from the new member agencies.
- The HEF would create a forum, Board, or similar "arm" consisting of elected officials from local agencies and senior officials from other member agencies, which would meet on a regular basis (subject to the Brown Act).

At this time, the representatives who attended the April 1 are not making specific proposals regarding the expanded HEF's scope of work, structure, or financing. If the existing HEF is open to this overall proposal, OFSC would continue to convene the meetings of regional representatives and the smaller working group (both of which include HEF members) to work out the details of an expansion proposal.

We understand that the HEF will conduct its regular monthly meeting on April 12. We request that HEF members discuss this proposal at that meeting, and we are (of course) available to answer any questions prior to or during the meeting. If the HEF is open to proceeding, we propose to continue our discussions and work with the HEF to flesh out the details of how an HEF expansion might work.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jon Kaufman, Co-chair of the Citizens' Committee and President of the Claremont Canyon Conservancy
Lisa Jacobs, Co-chair of the Citizens' Committee and Secretary of the Oakland Firesafe Council

Attendees of April 1 Meeting

John Gioia	County Supervisor	Contra Costa County, District 1
Robert Rogers	District Coordinator	Contra Costa County, District 1 (Gioia)
James Lyons	District Coordinator	Contra Costa County, District 1 (Gioia)
Jill Ray	Field Representative	Contra Costa County, District 2 (Andersen)
Lewis Broschard	Fire Chief	Contra Costa County FPD
Karen Pinkos	City Manager	City of El Cerrito
Michael Pigoni	Fire Chief	City of El Cerrito
Paul Fadelli	Councilmember	City of El Cerrito
Chris Wynkoop	Fire Chief	City of Pinole
Maureen Toms	Councilmember	City of Pinole
Angel Montoya	Fire Chief	City of Richmond
Gayle McLaughlin	Councilmember	City of Richmond
Bill Hansell	General Manager	Kensington Fire Protection District
Peter Guerrero	Emergency Preparedness Committee	Kensington Fire Protection District
Steve Danziger	Board of Directors	Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Craig Jorgens	Board of Directors	Moraga-Orinda Fire District
David Winnacker	Fire Chief	Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Susan Wengraf	Councilmember	City of Berkeley
Abe Roman	Fire Chief	City of Berkeley
Chris Pinto	Assistant Fire Chief	City of Berkeley
Curtis Jacobson	Fire Chief	City of Fremont
Heather Mozdean	Deputy Fire Chief	City of Oakland
Keara O'Doherty	Policy Advisory & Community Liaison	City of Oakland, District 1 (Kalb)
Brandon Harami	Communications Director	City of Oakland, District 4 (Thao)
Dave Brannigan	Fire Chief	City of Piedmont
Joan Malloy	City Manager	City of Union City
Damian Breen	Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Ken Kennedy	Engineer	Caltrans
Scott Hill	Manager of Watershed and Recreation	EBMUD
Sarah Yoell	Government Relations Representative	PG&E



Board of Directors
Larry Nagel (President)
Kevin Padian (Vice President)
Don Dommer
Janice Kosel
Julie Stein

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for Wildfire Mitigation, and Safe, Resilient Forests and Communities

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of Kensington Fire Protection District, I am writing to express our support for the East Bay Regional Park District's Wildfire Mitigation, and Safe, Resilient Forests and Communities Project. The Park District is submitting a Community Project Funding request for \$1,500,000 to address significant tree mortality in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Since October 2020, the Park District has been impacted by a sudden onset of tree mortality and dieback, affecting Eucalyptus, Acacia, Bay and Pine. This has led to an increase in standing dead trees of various species and sizes, and other hazardous conditions in the wildland-urban interface of the East Bay hills. The Park District has identified over 1,500 acres of tree mortality within its jurisdiction, nearly all within State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) – over 1.3 million dead trees need to be removed. The wildfire risk presented by vegetation mortality is substantial – upright dead and dying trees can widely spread airborne embers. The cost of tree removals along with flammable vegetation treatments and reduction is in the multiple millions. The Park District's Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan (WHRRMP) enables immediate action to remove the dead and dying trees.

In response to the East Bay's identified 1,500 acres impacted by tree mortality, the Park District is requesting resources to proactively mitigate against catastrophic wildfires consistent with the Park District's approved WHRRMP. The full scope of work – from identification and treatment to debris management and reestablishment of healthier ecosystems – has the potential to be a model nationally. The Park District stands ready to share all lessons learned and best practices across the state and nation for the benefit of all communities.

We strongly support the Park District's Community Project Funding request and respectfully request favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Hansell
General Manager