



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Thursday, August 25, 2022 3:00pm-5:00pm  
Station 65 Apparatus Bay, PSB, 217 Arlington  
Kensington, California

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

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian  
Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Paul Moss, David Spath  
Staff: General Manager Bill Hansell, Chief Eric Saylor  
Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela  
Members of the Public: Hal Graboske, Edna Weineke, Linnea Due

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

None

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 28, 2022**

The minutes could not be approved due to a lack of quorum when Lisa Caronna recused herself because she did not attend the July 28, 2022 meeting.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discussion with our new Fire Chief, Eric Saylor**

Kevin Padian began the discussion with a background of where this committee has journeyed over the past four years.

The first step was to hire three UC Berkeley graduate students to perform a Traffic Study for Kensington. This study was exhaustive and spanned the entire summer of 2018. The results of the study are available on the KFPD website.

Kevin explained that the next step was to implement as many of the recommendations of the traffic study as possible without spending enormous amount of money. Working with Lt. Brad Harms in the KPD, we arranged with the Sunset Cemetery to have the gates opened in an evacuation and we placed additional signage in the cemetery to establish an escape route. We also replaced the bollards on Highland Boulevard at the school with chains that could be removed easily to facilitate evacuation. Danielle Madugo worked with the Hilltop Elementary School staff to establish evacuation procedures and plans. Working

with the County Road Department, we had curbs painted red at key intersections that would be pinch points during an evacuation. We also started working with Chief Pigoni and Chief Gancasz to set up our first evacuation drill, which was held on April 9, 2022.

Kevin noted that we also investigate obtaining emergency radios for Kensington residents but concluded that the radios would not be very helpful.

EPC Member Katie Gluck led an effort to investigate obtaining a long range audio device (LRAD) system to alert Kensington residents in an emergency (wildfire or earthquake). We met with vendors of these devices on numerous occasions and will have General Manager Bill Hansell prepare an RFP for a system. Then the plan is to survey Kensington residents to assess how much support there is for such a system.

We also proposed to the Board that we hire a full time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and the district subsequently hire Johnny Valenzuela in 2021. Johnny has accomplished a tremendous amount in one year in his efforts to raise public awareness through attending block parties and other events as well as distributing material and becoming the editor of the Fire Plug. National Night Out was an outstanding success this year. Kevin noted that our contract with El Cerrito only includes CERT training and there is no staff or concerted effort by El Cerrito Fire Department for emergency preparedness, so Kensington is on our own.

Kevin then opened the meeting to a discussion by EPC members.

Dave Spath pointed out that there are some inconsistencies with the Zonehaven zones that need work. In particular, in his zone houses on one side of the street are in one zone and houses on the other side of the street are in another zone. This will cause confusion in the event of a partial evacuation.

Lisa Caronna noted that she has been very active in the Kensington Pathkeeper group and their goal is to find a permanent owner of the paths in Kensington. Their feeling is that the paths could have an important role in an evacuation.

Dave Spath noted that we may be missing out on grants for wildfire preparation and vegetation management. Dave noted that the City of Paradise obtained grants for the design and purchase of an emergency warning system.

Chief Saylors noted that he is very accustomed to obtaining and managing grants for fire protection and he intends to vigorously pursue grants in the future.

Linnea Due noted her three concerns in emergency preparedness which are (1) 28% of the population of Kensington is over 55 and will need special attention in an evacuation (2) the gutters in many streets in Kensington are so steep that cars are damaged if they drive into them (this could cause problems in an evacuation) and (3) The Cerritos Canyon is in desperate need of fuel reduction. This project is being addressed jointly by the Berkeley and El Cerrito Fire Departments.

Chief Saylors concluded the discussion with a summary of his plans as Chief. He holds public education as a very high priority and plans to address this issue. This dovetails nicely with our Emergency Preparedness Committee. Chief Saylors noted he is a big fan of a "sand table" which is a modeling tool that allows the simulation of various wildfire scenarios.

**b. Update on District finances for the immediate future**

General Manager Bill Hansell provided an informal update on where the District is financially, following the completion of the contracts funding the PSB, with consideration of potential funds to implement Emergency Preparedness projects. The budget for Emergency Preparedness in 2020-21 was \$60,000, and in 2021-22 the budget grew to \$44,000 plus \$100,000 for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. What happens in 2022-23 will depend on the renovation of Station 65, but at present those costs are coming in under budget.

**c. Status of RFP Preparation for Emergency Warning Devices**

Kevin noted that we need to develop an RFP for Emergency Warning Systems so that we can establish cost estimates and survey the Kensington residents to assess support for such a system. General Manager Bill Hansell noted that we could either have one vendor design the system and another contractor install the system (like Paradise did) or we could bid the project as a Design-Build project where there is only one vendor.

**d. Planned priorities for EPC during the coming year**

Because of the lack of remaining time and the absence of several EPC members, Kevin suggested that we postpone this item until the September meeting and the EPC members concurred.

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

Johnny Valenzuela reported that National Night Out this year was very successful after a two year hiatus. He visited about six block parties, spoke with residents, and distributed literature.

Johnny noted that the Fire Plug has gone to press and should be arriving in the mailboxes of residents soon. The issue is devoted to Emergency Preparedness in honor of September being National Emergency Awareness Month.

In October there are three events planned. On October 8, there will be a Pancake Breakfast at The Unitarian Church for residents. The next Shred and Meds day will be conducted by the KFD and the KPD on October 29. On a date to be determined, there will be a block party on Ardmore Road.

**7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Paul Moss asked about status of the fuel reduction efforts of the EBRPD. Larry Nagel noted that he had not yet spoken with Chief Aileen Theile about this but will be the next meeting.

**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 September 22, 2022 at 3:00pm via Zoom Conference, unless noticed otherwise per the Brown Act.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 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 September 22, 2022.

Attest:

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**Emergency Preparedness Committee Member**

**DRAFT**