



## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** February 25, 2021 / 3:00pm to 5:00pm

**LOCATION:** Via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian  
Committee: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell,  
Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, David Spath  
Staff: GM Bill Hansell  
Public: Mabry Benson, Chris Hilliard, Hal Graboske, Linnea Due, Lorika G

### 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Director Padian called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and called roll.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Linnea Due reported that she attended the meeting in Berkeley about fuel reduction in Cerrito Canyon which is on the border of Berkeley and Kensington. Linnea stressed that it is still important to keep the area as a wildlife refuge.
- Mabry Benson commented on the proposed set of general duties for the proposed Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position. She would put education ahead of neighborhood coordination programs, and she would list as first emergency preparation, including alert procedures, safe vegetation practices, and house hardening, because these are critical and most realistically doable. Although Kevin has spent a lot of time on emergency evacuation, his brief mention of the capacity of our streets to handle a community-wide evacuation makes this an unachievable goal. Mabry feels it is better to do what little can be done to make streets more passable and educate folks about the difficulties of evacuation and need to plan ahead and act early.
- Mabry Benson also noted that the evacuation route signs at the bottom of Sunset by the cemetery were confusing. It wasn't clear which way to go, and maybe we should add arrows pointing to the road thru the gate. Kevin will bring this up with Officer Brad Harms of the KPD.

### NEW BUSINESS - EPC COORDINATOR POSITION (taken out of order to free up Chief Pigoni's time)

- Chief Pigoni presented an alternative of having the EPC Coordinator being a sworn

- fire official who would work with the General Manager
- Chief Pigoni reviewed an e-mail that he sent to General Manager Bill Hansell
- The Committee discussed the memo from the Chief and asked questions, which he readily answered

### 3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

- a. **Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of January 28, 2021 (Approve)

<b>MOTION:</b> M/s Caronna/Nagel: To adopt consent items.
<b>VOTE:</b> Unanimous
Motion passed.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Refrigerator Magnets Project Update**
  - Magnets will have only emergency numbers for each agency
  - Changes in wording suggested for calling 911
  
- b. **Proposed Emergency Radio Program Update – Revisiting Possible Radio Options**
  - Kevin reviewed radio options
  - Larry expressed his opinion that we had been exploring these radio options for over a year and we really haven't reached resolution
  - Lisa suggested that we leave this for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
  
- c. **Job Description for Grant Proposal Writer**
  - Kevin presented the description for a grant writer
  - Larry noted how many grants need to be anticipated
  -
  
- d. **Coordination with KPD for Installing Emergency Evacuation Signs at Sunset & Arlington**
  - Kevin will coordinate with KPD Traffic Safety Office Brad Harms
  
- e. **Discussion of Possible Support for a KFPD Agenda Item to Hear Progress Report from the KPD about Proposed Parking Change Initiatives (10 mins)**
  - Officer Harms wants to present to the Board. This will be scheduled as convenient for both agencies.
  
- f. **Possible Projects to Inform Residents about EP in Advance of Next Fire Season (Fire Plug Issue, Articles, Websites, Social Media, Etc.)**
  - Discussion of Fire Plug. – Should the format be changed? Does it serve its purpose? All members are encouraged to send in information to help the GM

prepare the next issue.

**5. EPC MEMBER REPORTS ON OTHER ITEMS**

- Peter Guerrero reported that the Vollmer Peak camera is inoperative.
- Paul Moss asked about KARO/ECHO

**6. REPORT BY PRESIDENT NAGEL**

Protecting your City from Wildfire 2021 Conference: Highlighting the information for a report to the full board. Larry presented a short overview of the Protecting Your City from Wildfire 2021 workshop that he attended on Feb2-3. His slides are attached to these minutes.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None at present; to be determined.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM by Kevin Padian

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on March 25, 2021 at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the

Kensington Fire Protection District on \_\_\_\_ 18 March 2021 \_\_\_\_\_.

Attest:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

**Attachment 1**

Bill Hansell &lt;bhansell@kensingtonfire.org&gt;

**KFPD - Emergency Prep Coordinator**

Michael Pigoni <MPigoni@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us>  
To: Bill Hansell <bhansell@kensingtonfire.org>

Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 12:23 PM

Good Morning Bill,

I read through the principal duties submitted by Director Padian and since this is a full time position that would taper down to half time and then be re-evaluated after would not be a job that the Fire Department could provide as it could require the City to partially absorb the position or potentially lay off the employee if the Fire District decided to discontinue the position. If the Fire District was to hire this position, then I have concerns that a civilian position working directly for (representing) the Fire District will create the perception that they are part of the Fire Department. Some of the principal duties outlined in agenda item cross over and/or parallel duties that the Fire Department has been providing such as working with the CERT groups, public education, vegetation management, emergency evacuation plans earthquake preparedness and in general working to keep residents safe. There is no clear chain of command for this position in that the Board would set goals and objectives, the EPC would provide assistance to, but the person would report to the GM. This along with the fact the fact they would need to interface with the Fire personnel would blur who they actually work for and make it more difficult for a unified message.

If this position was to be a full-time job, then the Fire Department could consider providing a sworn position based on the following:

- Based on the job prerequisites, this position would start off at approximately \$50.00 per hour plus full benefits.
- The position would be a 40 hour per week sworn non-exempt flexible work schedule to accommodate night and weekend meetings without incurring overtime.
- Total compensation for this position would be approximately \$210,000 with benefits
- As a sworn position, this person would be available to assist the engine company for emergencies providing additional help when needed.
- The position would require a cell phone, laptop, radio, and vehicle, preferably a pickup.
- Chain of Command would be Fire District Board > General Manager > Fire Chief > Battalion Chiefs > Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

This position would coordinate with the Fire Department to:

- Obtain information on the CERT groups and the members as they exist now including the CERT sheds that were developed years ago.
- Set up meetings, in person or virtual with each team to determine level of participation and potential needs
- Provide in person or virtual classes/presentations to gain interest in CERT
- Coordinate with the Fire Department CERT instructors to set up training classes when health restrictions are lifted
- Update the District website
- Make presentations at all the K-Groups to continue public education on emergency preparedness
- Develop and set up programs to provide home inspections and triage reports on hardening homes
- Develop Fire Wise USA neighborhood program

- Work with KPD and Fire on continued improvements in evacuation plans

This is just a general list of duties that the Fire Department can provide. The EPC and the Board would need to fine-tune the job description and scope of work to provide a more accurate cost to provide this position. There is no doubt the District can provide this position at a lower cost due to pension costs, I just have concerns on the mixed messages and the similarities of duties between the Fire Department and this position.

Hope this helps a little,

Michael Pigoni

Fire Chief

El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department

(510) 812-4503

[Quoted text hidden]

# **Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021**

## **February 2-3, 2021**

**Notes Taken By**

**Laurence W. Nagel  
President and Director, Kensington Fire Protection District  
217 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94707**

# Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021

## Day 1

- **Session 1 Presentation: Climate Change: The Connection between Drought, Heat Waves & Wildfire in California – Lessons Learned for Santa Barbara, CA**
- **Session 2 Presentation: Extreme Fire Behavior** Fire whirls, fire tornadoes, fire clouds, and dry lightning.
- **Session 3 Presentation: Cal Fire 2020 Lessons Learned & Plans for Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Moving Forward**
- **Session 4 Panel: The Price of Fire: Funding Issues & Grants for Projects**
- **Session 5 Panel: Aligning Insurance Provider & Community-Wide Home Hardening Efforts**
- **Session 6 Panel: Aligning Land Use Planning & CWPPs**
- **Session 7 Presentation: Wildfire Smoke: Health Hazards & Air Quality Management**

# Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021

## Day 2

- **Session 8 Panel: Updating Vegetation & Forest Management Practices**
- **Session 9 Presentation: Case Study: Shaver Lake Fuel Reduction Project**
- **Session 10 Panel: WUI Issues: State and Local Perspectives**
- **Session 11 Panel: Wildfire Prevention Engineering**
- **Session 12 Presentation: Emergency Notification & Wildfire Public Education Efforts**
- **Session 13 Panel: Evacuation Planning and Coordination**
- **Session 14 Presentation: Evolving Role of Aircraft Types and Airspace Operations for Aerial Fire Mitigation**



# Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021

## **Session 1 Presentation: Climate Change: The Connection between Drought, Heat Waves & Wildfire in California – Lessons Learned for Santa Barbara, CA**

Presenter: Leila Carvalho, *Professor of Meteorology & Climate Science*, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Record breaking heat waves, California's ongoing drought, and hundreds of thousands of acres with dry, overgrown vegetation created an unprecedented fire season in 2020. Hear how climate change factors are contributing to more and larger fires, the interplay of the conditions that created the 2020 fire season, and how climate change will continue to affect communities all over California in the years to come.

# Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021

## Session 1 Presentation: Climate Change: The Connection between Drought, Heat Waves & Wildfire in California – Lessons Learned for Santa Barbara, CA

- Global warming has affected the frequency and persistence of heat waves -> implications for the occurrence of mega wildfires

### To protect our cities:

- Understanding wildfire risks and increase resilience requires a regional focus: **better forecasts of fire weather regimes are critical**
- Evacuation strategies and resilience capacity need to be locally investigated
- Education, Urban Planning, forest management and reduction of emission of greenhouse gases are critical.
- The science community, decision makers and stakeholders need to work together to build better prepared and more resilient communities.

# Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021

## Session 10 Panel: WUI Issues: State and Local Perspectives

Moderator: Tracy Katelman, *Owner*, FOREVERGREEN FORESTRY

Panelists:

Arn Andrews, *Assistant Town Manager*, TOWN OF LOS GATOS, CA

Chad Hanson, PhD, *Ecologist*, JOHN MUIR PROJECT

Bob Roper, CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Scott Witt, *Deputy Chief of Fire Plan Program*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND  
FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) expansion continues across CA, as various projections predict that the state could have up to 1.7 million homes in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs) by 2050. City leaders and local officials face the challenge of permitting development in VHFHSZs to accommodate growing populations while juggling the safety risks involved. New builds must comply with Chapter 7A; however, many communities struggle with both engaging residents in retrofit and enacting local building codes and defensible space ordinances. This panel will discuss lessons learned in land use planning for WUIs, mitigation standards, how they are best adopted, followed, and enforced.

# Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021

## Session 10 Panel: WUI Issues: State and Local Perspectives

Arn Andrews, *Assistant Town Manager*, TOWN OF LOS GATOS, CA  
Wildfire Preparedness in Los Gatos

- Used Montecito as a model for Wildfire Preparation
- WUI Evacuation Assessment Plan – Not an evacuation plan because that can only be established when fire occurs
- Effort included road widening as well as fuel reduction
- Cost for wildfire preparation is \$2.25M
- Formed a Wildfire Mitigation Committee comprised of community members

# Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021

## Session 13 Panel: Evacuation Planning and Coordination

Moderator: Christopher Danch, *Executive Director & Grants Specialist*, OJAI VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

### Panelists:

Susan Duenas, *Public Safety Manager*, CITY OF MALIBU

Paul Lowenthal, *Assistant Fire Marshal*, SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Kevin McGowan, *Director*, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Daryl Osby, *Fire Chief*, LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Wildfire evacuations have occurred in many communities up and down CA, from Santa Rosa and Paradise to Ventura and Malibu. Even communities with comprehensive evacuation plans struggle with fast-moving fires and getting real-time information, as thousands pour onto a few roads in many of these incidents. It is vitally important for cities and counties to develop robust plans that include granular information on route maps and zones, strategies for the vulnerable, shelter estimates, and contingencies for blocked routes. But not everyone agrees on what to include in an evacuation plan, whether they should be publicly available, how detailed they should be, or whether the state should require them for at-risk areas. This session will tackle these important issues with valuable lessons learned and best practices.

# Protecting Your City From Wildfire 2021

## Session 13 Panel: Evacuation Planning and Coordination

Question: Does anyone have an opinion on the use of sirens and/or outdoor public address systems for emergency notification. Does anyone use them?

Paul – After the Tubbs fire, there were cries for sirens. Locally, the areas that were being rebuilt. Outdoor systems may not be heard, and if they are heard, what does it mean.? From Santa Rosa's perspective, they are not currently in favor of them.

Susan – After the Woolsey fire, Malibu had a sound analysis done and the conclusion was that only people near the siren would hear them inside.

Daryl – Echoed what Susan said. At this point, LA County is not in favor of sirens.