



## RESOLUTION 21-09

### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CONFIRMING SEISMIC VULNERABILITY AND STRUCTURAL FAILURE OF THE KENSINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING REQUIRING URGENT REMEDIATION

**WHEREAS**, the stated mission of the Kensington Fire Protection District is “to provide the highest level of service to Kensington in order to protect the lives, property, and environment of the community from the disastrous effects of fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and other hazardous conditions”; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s Public Safety Building, located at 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA, was built in 1970 and serves as the only Essential Services Facility within and central to the District’s borders; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s emergency response and administrative personnel work and reside within the building, along with all of the District’s vehicles, equipment, supplies, and communication resources necessary to respond to the Kensington’s daily needs and to provide critical response during a major disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, Essential Services Facilities must remain operational after a seismic event and, therefore, are designed to higher structural standards than other buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence of structural failure and concerns about significant seismic vulnerability have been documented in numerous studies of the building, including those by *Seidelman Associates* (June 8, 1990), *Geomatrix Consultants* (October 30, 1997), *Kleinfelder West* (May 5, 2009), *Biggs Cardosa Associates* (February 16, 2016), *IDA Structural Engineers* (July 19, 2016), *Advance Geological Services* (November 6, 2017), *Rockridge Geotechnical* (January 31, 2018), *IDA Structural Engineers* (September 5, 2019), and *Haley Aldrich* (October 8, 2021); and

**WHEREAS**, the Kleinfelder Geotechnical Report of May 5, 2009 states that “*The major geotechnical concerns for this project include: foundation support, potential for strong ground shaking due to a large earthquake, and continued downslope shallow soil creep of the site*”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biggs Cardosa Associates Seismic Assessment of February 16, 2016 states that “*Because the building does not meet the latest seismic code requirements and due to its proximity to major earthquake faults there is the possibility that significant structural damage may occur with loss of life during a seismic event*”; and

**WHEREAS**, past modifications in 1998, 2004, and 2009 did not sufficiently address the building’s structural problems, nor provide adequate seismic resistance, which remain significant relative to the requirements of the current 2019 California Building Code for Essential Service Facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed remediation plans, currently underway by ZFA Structural Engineers, have indicated that the building requires extensive new foundation work, new floor and roof framing, and new shear walls in order to meet the current standards of an Essential Services Facility, as well as to protect the District's personnel and assets; and

**WHEREAS**, alternative sites are not available for the construction of a new Public Safety Building within the constrained borders of Kensington, thereby leaving no other options than to renovate the existing building, as necessary, to serve the community's emergency needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the design, permitting, bidding, and construction of a project of this scale requires a number of years, during which time the District's personnel and assets remain at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's Board of Directors recently engaged the services of architects and engineers, who are expeditiously working with District staff to develop the necessary plans and specifications to fully renovate the building in order to resolve the issues noted above; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kensington Public Safety Building qualifies as critical infrastructure and is eligible for funding assistance from State and Federal resources targeted for that purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, the District relies upon Contra Costa County officials to process Planning and Building Department permits, which can determine how quickly a safe and lasting Essential Services Facility is achievable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Kensington Fire Protection District confirms that the existing Kensington Public Safety Building's structural and seismic deficiencies have been sufficiently documented and must be urgently remediated in order to continue providing essential services to the community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Kensington Fire Protection District requests consideration of any available funding by the State and Federal government in order to bring the Kensington Public Safety Building into compliance with current Essential Service Facilities codes and standards, and directs the General Manager to pursue any grant funding that is targeted for that purpose.

**FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Kensington Fire Protection District requests assistance from Contra Costa County officials to expedite all Planning and Building Department permit processes in the interest of community safety and for the common good.

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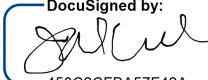
The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021 by the following vote of the Board.


**AYES: Dommer, Nagel, Padian, Stein**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT: Kosel**

**ABSTAIN:**

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**Janice Kosel, Secretary**

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**Larry Nagel, President**