

Clayton Morgan Territory Fire Safe 2015 Summary Working Session #3 – November 4, 2015

1. Introduction. Ms. Miller welcomed the group and attendees introduced themselves.

- Dominic Aliano, Office of Supervisor Mitchoff Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
- Candace Bass, Clayton Resident
- Division Chief Robert Chew, CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
- Councilmember Jim Diaz, City of Clayton
- Paul Ingle, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)
- Battalion Chief Mike Marcucci, CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
- Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC)
- Cheryl Morgan, Director East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD)
- Alicia Nuchols, Office of Supervisor Mary Piepho Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
- Larry Nunes, Vice-President DFSC Board of Directors
- Kathy Woolfer, Contra Costa Fire Protection District

2. Stakeholder Meeting I Recap

Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator, Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) provided a recap of the first two meetings meeting held July 29, and August 26, 2015 (see written summaries at www.diablofiresafe.org/pdf/2015-CMT_mtg_1_summary.pdf and www.diablofiresafe.org/pdf/2015-CMT_mtg_2_summary.pdf for details) including:

- What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), requirements of a CWPP and required signatures
- Planning process, schedule, outcomes and grant budget breakdown
- Existing wildfire assessments, projects and resources
- Current projects and unfunded programs

3. Expanding on Preliminary Project Ideas

The group reviewed preliminary project ideas and recommendations for addressing fire hazards and risk that were brainstormed during the first two stakeholder meetings. The recommendations were organized to focus on each of the 10 different existing risk and hazard assessments that had been identified in the 2014 Contra Costa County-wide CWPP Update.

1. Collaborative partners
2. Risks of ignitions
3. Fire weather
4. Community at risk hazards
5. Defensible space
6. Structure survivability
7. New and infill development
8. Fuel management on public and large scale private lands
9. Protect facilities and infrastructure
10. Local preparedness and firefighter capability.

See http://www.diablofiresafe.org/pdf/2014-Draft_Contra_Costa_County_CWPP_Update.pdf Section 2.4 for further description. The group identified additional recommendations for strategies, activities and projects to address fire hazards and risks.

Following the review and additions to the recommendations, the group went through a prioritization exercise. Each participant was provided with 4 red dots to place next to their top priority items. The number before each recommendation represents the number of supporting votes from those stakeholders present.

Preliminary Recommendations to Reduce Fire Hazards and Risks

of dots identifying activity as priority

Activity

1. Finding Collaborative Partners - Information, Education and Collaborative Planning	
2	Develop collaborative partners
3	Communicate fire safety messages to residents year round
3	Identify and facilitate roles for citizens
2	Resource conservation + stewardship + wildfire prevention
2	Foster agency partnerships
2. Reducing Risk of Ignitions	
0	Focus on areas with high ignition history
0	Ignition prevention campaigns (e.g. "one less spark/ one less wildfire)
0	Specific campaigns focused on contractors and public works agencies
0	Focus on tree mortality
0	Limit access during periods of high fire danger
3. Fire Weather	
2	Communications regarding red flag conditions
0	Remote Automated Weather (RAWs) stations
0	Operations protocols (responding to weather conditions)
0	Private weather stations
1	Homeowner activities - information on what not to do/ what to do during red flag conditions
4. Community At Risk Hazards	
0	Special needs populations - who/ where they are, what they need in case of emergency/ preparedness etc.
0	Sensitive environmental resources
0	Recreation users - visitors to area
0	Homeless population
0	Mobile home park
0	Locations of homes - for out of area emergency personnel
5. Defensible Space Programs - Reducing fuels around existing homes and structures (private land)	
5	Inspection, enforcement and abatement (annual inspections, target problem areas or complaint driven)
4	Prevention program - communication and education
1	Funding & incentives - cost share program
1	Methodologies - training on how to do and on-going maintenance required
1	Enforcement mechanisms
1	Inspection, enforcement and abatement on vacant lots (where no structures are present)
6. Structure Survivability - Existing Structures	
0	Recommendations for structures serving special needs populations
0	Recommendations for construction meeting 7A Building Codes
0	Insurance industry partners (ISO, Insurance Commissioner, individual companies)
7. New and Infill Development	
0	SBI241 Land use Planning
0	Title 14 Updates
0	Single homes and commercial facilities development – infill
8. Fuel management on public lands & large scaled private lands	

2	Pre-fire fuel management programs/ plans
1	Volunteers helping to work on public lands to reduce fuels
1	Reduce negative impacts of fuel reduction activities (e.g. non-native weeds)
1	Protect sensitive environmental resources
1	Overlap of conservation and wildfire prevention
1	Best techniques for fuel reduction on private open spaces
2	Identify stakeholders and customize information for each
1	More enforcement teeth for abatement on public lands

9. Protect Facilities and Infrastructure

0	Network of improved and unimproved roads for emergency use
6	Fire road maintenance (passable surface, less erosion)
0	Powerlines and telephone lines (mobile phones don't work in much of area)
2	Water (CCWD = hydrants, tank @ little divide. Other private sources = seasonal stock ponds + tanks)
0	Gas pipeline

10. Local Preparedness and Firefighting

0	Local volunteer response and community support
0	Animal rescue and sheltering - large and small animals
0	Long response times due to distance
0	Low staffing levels due to limited resources
3	Prefire plans and evacuation plans
2	CERT
1	Know special needs population and ability to evacuate or shelter in place
0	Drills

Who are the stakeholders in Clayton, Marsh Creek and Morgan Territory areas?

The group also discussed various stakeholders and the importance of recognizing that the needs of each group will likely be different. Stakeholders identified include:

Agencies

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- City of Clayton (City Council, planning, streets, building permits, parks, trails)
- Contra Costa County (Board of Supervisors, planning, roads, building permits)
- Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
- East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
- San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

Public Lands Managers

- California State Parks
- Contra Costa Water District
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Save Mount Diablo
- Pacific Gas and Electric + statewide transmission lines

Private Land Owners

- Private ranch owners – cattlemen
- Residential property owners

Recreation

- Oakhurst Golfcourse
- Mount Diablo Trail Recreation Association

- Bowman's Club
- Frank Lloyd Wright Association
- Private recreation parks

Businesses

Industry

- Quarries - Cemex
- Legacy mine sites

Infrastructure

- State roads
- County roads
- Private roads
- Communications towers (on Craiger Peak)
- Calstar helicopter services

4. Action Plan discussion for top priorities

Following the prioritization exercise, the stakeholders discussed preliminary action plans around two top priority recommendations.

Fire Road Maintenance

Recommendation: Identify and maintain a network of fire roads for access and egress during wildfire. These fire roads also may have value for wildfire containment.

The fire roads may be on public lands or on private property (by permission of owner). They would be maintained by landowner or fire agency with a unified lock system for access. Coordinated maintenance activities could provide cost savings.

Implementation Actions:

- Form a consortium of partners including fire agencies and those who own and manage potential fire roads, including: East Bay Regional Park District, Contra Costa Water District, private land owners, Save Mount Diablo, and State Parks.
- Identify roads in existing on-going maintenance programs such as EBRPD, San Ramon Valley Fire District, State Parks, etc.
- Inventory existing roads, conditions, maintenance activities and funding. Identify gaps and duplicates to establish a fire road network.
- Plan for road maintenance and improvements. CEQA compliance and permits to be obtained by owners. Funding sources identified (e.g. FEMA \$ for repair after damage).
- Operate on-going annual maintenance and repair program.

Lead and Partners: Not yet identified

Time frame: Short-term timeframe to get up and running; on-going maintenance and improvement program.

Estimated Funding Need or Ease of Implementation: \$ for information; \$\$\$\$ for maintenance or major repairs.

Communication/ Education

Recommendation: Year round communication and education regarding wildfire safety to various communities in Clayton, Marsh Creek and Morgan Territory areas.

Implementation Actions:

- Identify various audiences: Clayton residents, Marsh Creek Road residents, Morgan Territory residents. Long-term residents versus transient (renters or recreation visitors).
- Develop topics including:
 - General awareness – wildfire season, red flag days.
 - Value of defensible space – specifically before inspections.
 - House to house fire transmission, as well as wildfires.
- Delivery methods: direct mail, provide information for existing e-mail blasts (County Supervisors + City), community letters (County Supervisors), open houses, piggy-back on other community events.
- Encourage resident participation

Lead and Partners: Not yet identified.

Time frame: Short-term timeframe; on-going 9 month or year round program.

Estimated Funding Need or Ease of Implementation: \$ to develop initial program and evaluate additional needs.

5. Next Steps

The final steps in the planning process include:

- Administrative Draft: Background, recommendations, priorities, assessment strategies – Jan 20, 2016
- Circulate Draft for comment – Feb – March 2016
- Presentation for signatures and support – April 2016

Stakeholders were asked to assist the process by:

1. Following up on Recommendations and Action Plan Ideas with further ideas or examples
2. Sharing information about the CWPP and funding for short term projects
3. Sharing expertise on recommendations and implementation with group