

El Cerrito - Kensington Fire Action Plan Summary Working Session #2 – March 3, 2016

I. **Introduction.** Ms. Miller welcomed the group and attendees introduced themselves.

- Fire Marshal Michael Bond, El Cerrito Fire (also serves Kensington Fire Protection District)
- Tom Gehling, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers
- Katie Gluck, Friends of Kensington Community Center
- Nina Harmond, Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors
- Peter Liddel, Friends of Kensington Community Center
- Alisha Lomeli, PG&E Vegetation Management
- Fire Chief Dan McCormick, East Bay Regional Park District
- Larry Nagel, Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors
- Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator Diablo Fire Safe Council
- Stephen Prée, City of El Cerrito, Arborist
- Dominic Ramirez, Carmelite Monastery Kensington
- Susan Schwartz, Friends of Five Creeks

2. Stakeholder Meeting I Recap .

Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator, Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) provided an overview of the first stakeholder meeting. A written summary was also provided highlighting:

- What is a CWPP and a fire safe action plan
- Project planning process and schedule
- Existing Assessments – CAL FIRE, local agencies, others
- How we address risk - Current projects and unfunded programs

3. Expanding on Preliminary Project Ideas and Priorities: The group reviewed preliminary project ideas and recommendations for addressing fire hazards and risk that were brainstormed during the first stakeholder meeting. The recommendations were organized to focus on each of the 9 different existing risk and hazard assessments that had been identified in the 2014 Contra Costa County-wide CWPP Update.

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

1	Identify and work with potential collaborative partners – cross messaging
0	Identify volunteer groups for project work (e.g. UC Berkeley students)
0	Identify and facilitate roles for citizens
0	Share best practices among partners
0	Foster agency partnerships

2. Reducing Risk of Ignitions

6	Fire prevention education
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0	Ember awareness
0	Restrictions on certain activities during red flag days
1	Roadside clearances of vegetation
0	Increase patrols on red flag, staffing levels, use of KARO and ECHO (amateur radio groups)

3. Fire Weather

0	Fire danger signs (through community and in park)
1	Red flag weather education to community – what to do and not to do
0	Local media alerts during red flag weather – including “Next door” + city Website + CoCoCWS (community warning system - subscriber system) + “Nixel”

4. Community At Risk Hazards

1	Monitoring drought related tree decline / mortality (Willits, property, motorcycle hill)
0	Monitoring spread of sudden oak death
2	Project planning and funding to deal with increase in tree mortality

5. Defensible Space Programs - Reducing fuels around existing homes and structures (private land)

2	Talk to people about what to do
0	Information about flammability of specific plants (e.g. juniper)
2	“Seed funds” for hazardous fuel reduction projects
1	Share effective techniques (e.g. broom removal)
0	Right tree right place program (PG&E has program related to power lines)
5	Demonstration garden

6. Structure Survivability - Existing Structures

5	Education on home ignitions
0	Share practical retrofit for existing homes
0	Sprinkler systems (required for new homes – being considered throughout Contra Costa County to be required if more than 50% of home is remodeled).

7. Fuel management on public lands & large scaled private lands

0	Mapping of fuel loads and invasive plants
2	Fuel reduction projects in El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area (south end eucalyptus grove, north of Portero, edge of PG&E easement along Moser, continue Friends of Five Creek broom removal projects)
1	Kensington Community Center fuel reduction
0	Kensington fuel reduction group (the elves) and vegetation management on border of homes with Wildcat Canyon Regional Park
0	Public / private project (e.g. Wildwood HOA and El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area)
0	Removal of eucalyptus and pines along Moser Drive
	Hazardous fuel reduction project locations:
0	Blake Estate
0	Camp Hermes
0	Willits property (private) at Fairview and Tamalpais
0	EBMUD property
0	Hillside Community Church (private) and Hillside Natural Area
0	Kensington Berkeley line canyon (private properties)

8. Protect Facilities and Infrastructure

1	Identify locations to protect (roads, powergrid, substation, water, communication)
0	Extra patrols during high fire (red flag) days
0	Schools (pre-schools + 2 elementary schools)

0	Shields Nursing Center + private residential care facilities
0	Community facilities (community center, library
1	Churches (+ preschools)
0	Gas Stations
0	Parking on narrow roads – fire accesses restrictions

9. Local Preparedness and Firefighting

0	Local evacuation plans (escape routes)
3	Support fire department response capabilities
1	Nixel and public notifications – Sirens (community warning system)

During the discussion the group added to a list of potential partners in wildfire prevention for outreach, education and hazardous fuel reduction projects that included:

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| CAL FIRE | El Cerrito Garden Club (+ network) |
| California Native Plant Society | El Cerrito Historic Society |
| City of El Cerrito | El Cerrito Trail Trekkers |
| City of Berkeley | El Cerrito Tree Committee and Green Teams |
| Contra Costa County | Friends of Five Creeks |
| Diablo Fire Safe Council | Friends of Kensington Community Center |
| EBMUD | Kensington Fuel Reduction Group |
| EBRPD | Pacific Gas and Electric Company |
| ECHO & KARO (amateur radio groups) | West Contra Costa Unified School District |
| Kensington Fire Protection District | |
| Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District | |

The group also discussed ignition causes prevalent in the area including: equipment use, vehicles, accidental ignitions, fireworks, arson, bar-b-cues, power lines, lightening, smoking, illegal camp fires. The majority of the fires are human caused.

The group differed discussion of action plans for the top 3 priorities until next meeting due to lack of time.

4. Expanding Participation in the Planning Process

A draft community survey was reviewed and suggestions made to make it more user friendly. The survey will be circulated electronically with hard copies brought to community meetings. It will be made available mid March and run for 3 weeks. A second version can be run again during the Plan’s public review period (if desired).

5. Next Steps

The next meeting is on Thursday, March 31, 3:00 – 4:30, City Hall Creekside room (to be confirmed). We will continue our development of an Action Plan and look at how the Administrative Draft Plan is shaping up to present in public meetings in April.

