

El Cerrito - Kensington Fire Action Plan Summary Working Session #4 – March 29, 2017

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

- Fire Marshal Michael Bond, El Cerrito Fire (also serves Kensington Fire Protection District)
- Ralph Boniello, Friends of Five Creeks, El Cerrito Tree Committee
- Dominic Ramirez, Carmelite Monastery Friends Group
- BC Dave Gibson, El Cerrito Fire (also serves Kensington Fire Protection District)
- Katie Gluck, Friends of Kensington Community Center
- Nina Harmon, Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors
- Suzanne Iarla, City of El Cerrito
- Peter Liddell, Friends of Kensington Community Center
- Larry Nagel, Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors
- Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator Diablo Fire Safe Council
- FPO Joe Gagne, El Cerrito Fire (also serves Kensington Fire Protection District)
- Ciara Wood, Kensington Fuel Reduction Group and DFSC Board

2. Stakeholder Meeting 1, 2 & 3 Recap .

No overview need of the first three stakeholder meetings. Ms. Miller provided a high level overview of the Plan highlighting:

- What is a CWPP and a fire safe action plan
- Next steps in planning process
- Results of the 2016 on-line survey
- Current program for funding cost share projects

The group discussed the overall purpose of the plan as a guiding document and not a mandate. It will be used for grant funding and coordinating programs and projects. The group also discussed if the document should include policy language or more specifics on projects. It was generally agreed that the guiding document should be the first step, but reference to develop of specifics should be included.

3. Review of Administrative Draft Plan: The group reviewed the 2/28/2017 Admin Draft Plan distributed to all stakeholders by email on 3/2/2017 with printed copies available at the meeting. Group discussion included the following comments and recommended additions/ revisions:

- Table of Contents, Executive Summary, Introduction, Scope and Purpose: No comments.
- Section 1: El Cerrito and Kensington Information: Increase size of section page numbers at bottom. Correct typos.
- Section 2: Fire Hazard.
 - Add enlargement of map showing boundaries of very high fire hazard severity zone in El Cerrito (page 19). El Cerrito Fire Department can provide.
 - Add to “Section 2.3 Strategies...” (pg 22-23) the idea of working with other groups and policy-makers to develop appropriate policy. The group discussed the example of working with the El Cerrito Tree Committee to implement the urban forestry plan with policy regarding the removal of eucalyptus, Monterey pine and juniper.
 - This idea of developing policy could be included in the “Recommendations” (pp 22-23) in strategy “1. Collaborative Partners, 3. Recommendations to address risk of ignitions, and 4 Recommendations to address community at risk hazards.”

- The group discussed policy (top down) versus recommendations and incentives (bottom up) approaches. It was agreed that both are important to address community wildfire protection. The Plan's focus is on recommendations, programs and projects in its role of a guiding document. However, it was agreed to recognize the value of policy development, while not specifying which policies at this point. Ralph Boniello will provide some language to include in the plan.
- Section 3: Recommended Action Plan. Discussion identified two additions to the recommended priority actions related to project development and evacuation.
 - Add to "Priority Action: Fire Prevention Educational Program" (pg 27) an additional topic under Implementation Actions. "How to identify wildfire hazards and develop and fund a hazardous fuel reduction project on private or public property."
 - Add to "Evacuation Planning and Preparedness (page 28)" a third bullet under implementation action to "Educate the community group on evacuation procedures and develop expectations related to such issues as parking, emergency vehicle access, role of law enforcement in communicating evacuation routes responsive to the rapidly developing wildfire, community notification, actual evacuation, etc." Support the Ready Set Go! program."
- Section 4: Prioritized Fuel Reduction. Recommendation to add the link to the DFSC website on plants with a favorable fire performance rating. <http://www.diablofiresafe.org/tolerance.html>
- Section 5: Treatment of Structural Ignitability. No recommended revisions.
- Section 6: Sustaining the Plan. Additions for Kensington Fire District updates on water delivery system and match for community fundraising for fuel reduction group projects.

4. Next Steps

The Draft Plan will begin the process of support letters and review/ approvals.

We are asking for letters of support including from stakeholder groups, Kensington Fire Protection District Board, El Cerrito Fire Department and CAL FIRE. A draft letter was distributed at the meeting and will be email to other stakeholders.

Target dates for review/ approvals are:

- El Cerrito City Council, April 18th (consent calendar)
- Kensington Fire Protection District Board May 3rd
- Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to be scheduled after KFPD Board – estimate late May or June.

DFSC currently has funds available for cost share projects. This grant will end on September 30, 2017. DFSC will continue to keep the group updated via e-mails and posting on the website.

For more information contact Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator Diablo Fire Safe Council.

Phone: (510) 282-1265

Email: DFSCMiller@comcast.net