

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

**REVISED Agenda
For the Regular Meeting of the
Disaster and Fire Safety Commission**

DATE: Wednesday, May 22, 2019
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Fire Department Training Facility - 997 Cedar Street

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order.

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services Staff Report

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of April 24, 2019*

Action Items

3. Recommendation to City Council on the Measure GG Tax Rate Adjustment*
4. Commission Workplan*

Discussion Items

5. City Evacuation Workshops
6. Cal Fire Fuel Reduction Priorities Report*
7. Update from City Council Vote on Outdoor Public Warning System
8. Local (Berkeley) Composting of Vegetative Fuel Sources to Mitigate Fire Hazard*
9. Recommendations regarding Fire Prevention and Fire Hardening of Structures

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E-mail: fire@ci.berkeley.ca.us

10. Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

(*Material attached for Commissioners for this month's meeting)

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Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2019
997 Cedar Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

Present: Paul Degenkolb, Gradiva Couzin, Bob Flasher, Shirley Dean, Ruth Grimes, Toby Simmons

Absent: Annie Bailey (Excused), Toni Stein (Excused)

Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May, Jocelyn Nip, Jennifer Lazo, Amber Davis, David Brannigan

Public: David Peattie, Sarah Jones, Alina Constantinescu, Rafael Grillo Avila

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

G. Couzin called meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to Move Item 4 ahead of Item 3: Degenkolb

Second: Flasher

Vote: 6 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0 Noes; 2

Absent: Stein, Bailey; 0 Abstain:

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

5/4 radio exercise will include the “hub” concept that has been discussed in the Commission. 5/30 BDPNN may have a wildfire evacuation forum. In October there will be a Community Based Emergency Prep Demo Fair.

T. Simmons arrived at 7:07pm

Robert Flasher said that The “Alliance” community groups will practice evacuation on May 4 with a check in at the Rose Garden. Shirley Dean said that there confusion on the many upcoming drill.

Gradiva Couzin said that she obtained a grant to fund weather radios and is looking to award 25 radios.

1. Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services Staff Report

On 4/2, Garbage truck fire that was followed by a City response for the presence of firefighting foam in Codornices Creek on 4/3.

On 4/18, Malcolm X School had a hazardous materials response due to multiple children feeling dizzy. The cause has not been identified.

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Safety Element has been submitted to the Board of Forestry.

Jocelyn Nip and Fire Chief David Brannigan, provided the Measure GG Budget Update.

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of March 27, 2018*

Motion approve minutes as revised: S. Dean

Second: P. Degenkolb

Vote: 6 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0 Noes; 2

Absent: Stein, Bailey; 0 Abstain:

Action Items

3. City Manager Referral to Improve Fire Safety Standards for Rebuilt Fire Damaged Structure*

Motion to communicate to City Council that the Commission concurs with staff recommendation; however, the commission is examining options the City may have toward incentivizing and/or requiring fire-hardening of homes and vegetation removal to improve fire safety in Fire Zones 2 and 3, and will follow up within six months.: G. Couzin

Second: Flasher

Vote: 6 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0 Noes; 2

Absent: Stein, Bailey; 0 Abstain:

Discussion Items

4. Measure GG Preparedness Outreach Report

5. Safe Passages Project
6. Commission Workplan
S. Dean left the meeting at 858p
S. Dean returned to the meeting at 858p
7. Cal Fire Fuel Reduction Priorities Report
8. Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Degenkolb

Second: Flasher

Vote: 6 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0 Noes; 2

Absent: Stein, Bailey; 0 Abstain:

Adjourned at 914pm



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

Date: May 22, 2019
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: Gradiva Couzin, Chair, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: Yearly Adjustment of Measure GG Tax Rate

Each year, the City increases the Measure GG assessment by either the Personal Income Growth Factor or the Consumer Price Index. In previous years, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission has consistently recommended this increase.

This year, the Commission declines to recommend an increase to the Measure GG assessment, because we believe that these funds are not being used properly by the City.

As was noted in a previous memo dated 8/1/2018 (see attached), the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission objects to the City using Measure GG funds to replace, rather than augment, general funding of Berkeley Fire Department overtime costs.

In the years since Measure GG was passed, the City has chosen to decrease General Fund spending on Fire Department overtime, and to cover the difference using Measure GG funds. Because of this practice, Measure GG funds are not available for a full array of disaster preparedness services. Put simply, the fund is running dry.


The Commission believes this practice is a disingenuous use of the special tax dollars authorized by Measure GG and does not follow the spirit of the law that was approved by Berkeley voters.

Rather than continuing to increase the Measure GG tax rate each year while simultaneously reducing General Funds allocated to Fire Department overtime, we suggest that the City consider the following options instead:

- Option 1: Increase the General Fund allocations toward Fire Department overtime to at least the 2008 level, adjusted for inflation.
- Option 2: Put a new vote to the public that will increase the Measure GG tax rate to a new, higher level to accommodate the current high Measure GG fund spending on overtime.



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

Date: August 1, 2018
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by:  Paul Degenkolb, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: Objection to Use of Measure GG Funds to Replace, Rather Than Augment, General Funding of Berkeley Fire Department

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission objects to the City using Measure GG funds to replace, rather than augment, general funding of Berkeley Fire Department overtime costs.

At the 8/1 regular meeting of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, the commission approved a motion to submit this memo, Objection to the Use of Measure GG Funds to Replace, Rather Than Augment, General Funding of Berkeley Fire Department: Couzin Second: Stein Vote: 7 Ayes: Grimes, Flasher, Degenkolb, Couzin, Bailey, Stein; 1 No: Legg; 1 Absent: Golomb; 0 Abstain.

Measure GG authorizes a special tax for the purpose of funding fire protection and emergency response and preparedness. Each year, Berkeley taxpayers pay roughly \$5 million into this tax.

In the years since Measure GG was passed, the City has chosen to decrease General Fund spending on Fire Department overtime, and to cover the difference using Measure GG funds. As a result, some Measure GG funds are replacing General Fund spending on fire and emergency purposes, rather than augmenting it.

The Commission estimates that, in effect, this practice siphons \$500,000 to \$1 million per year in Measure GG funds away from fire protection and emergency preparedness uses, with a corresponding increase in General Fund monies available for other uses.

A legal review by City Attorney Farimah Brown dated 4/6/2018 found that Measure GG gives the City broad discretion, and that it is not illegal for the City to reduce General Funds that go toward fire protection and emergency preparedness purposes while making up for the lost funds with Measure GG funding.

Nevertheless, the Commission believes this practice is a disingenuous use of the special tax dollars authorized by Measure GG and does not follow the spirit of the law that was approved by Berkeley voters.

As the body that is charged with oversight of Measure GG spending, the Commission will continue to monitor this spending and object to allocation we believe is improper. We anticipate that improved accounting software will allow the Commission to revisit this question with a more rigorous audit in the next 1-2 years.

The following charts show the decrease in General Funding for Fire Department overtime since the enactment of Measure GG:

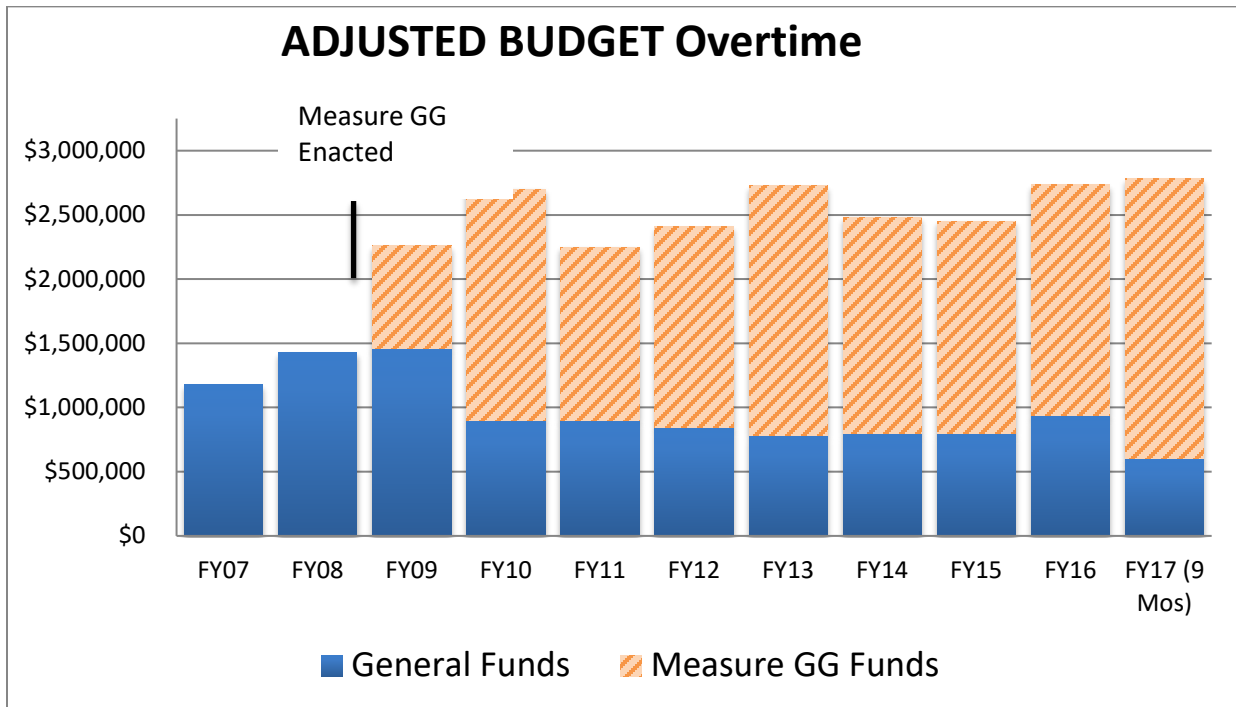


Figure 1: Berkeley Fire Department Overtime – Adjusted Budget
 Data from City of Berkeley’s FUND\$ system

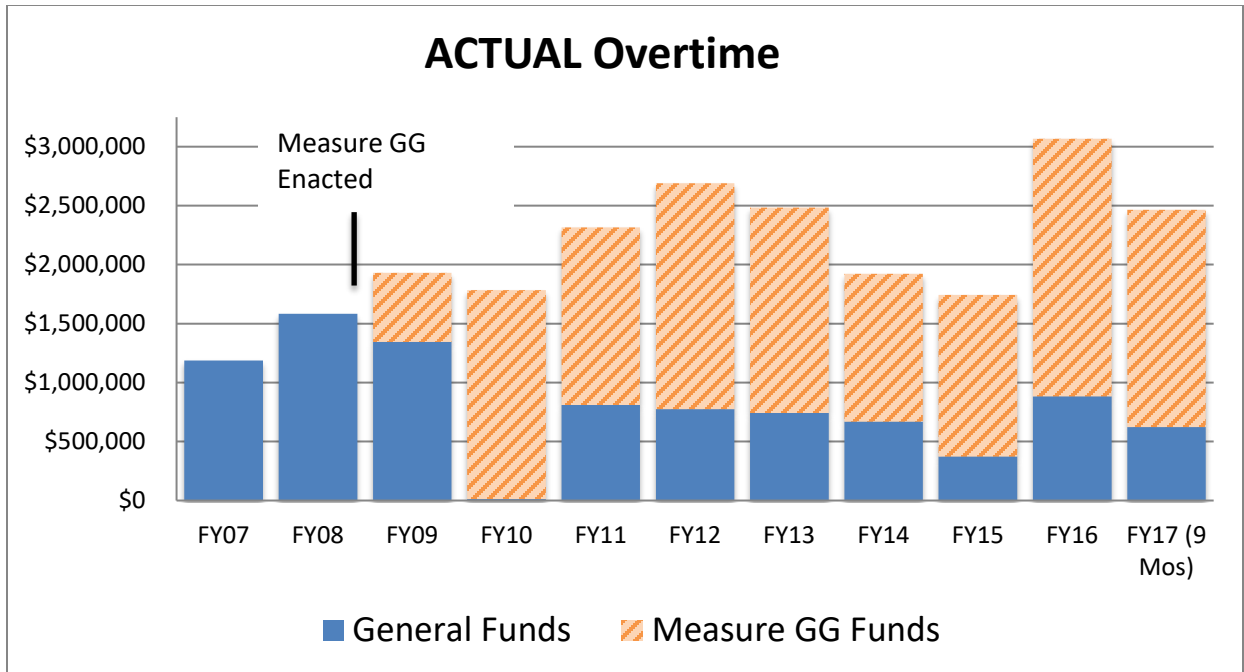
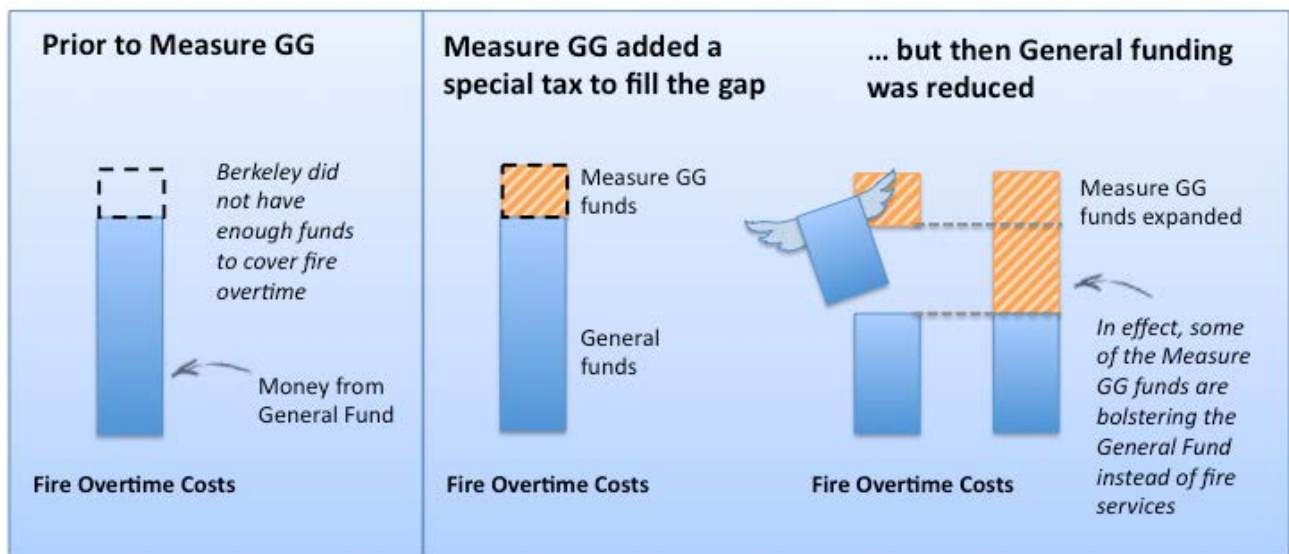


Figure 2: Berkeley Fire Department Overtime – Actual Overtime
 Data from City of Berkeley's FUND\$ system

The following figure shows an illustration of how the current funding allocation has the same effect as moving Measure GG funding away from its designated Fire Department use and into the General Fund:



A City Attorney says this is perfectly legal, but is this good governance?

Figure 3: Visual Illustration of Measure GG and General Funding

Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission WORK PLAN – 2019

Mission Statement

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission serves as the public oversight group for Berkeley’s Measure GG, charged with reviewing the budget on a regular basis to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the intent of the voter approved measure, recommending the appropriate annual increase to the tax rate, and recommending new programs and positions requiring Measure GG funding.

The Commission also focuses on ways to increase community safety and resilience, working on education, community disaster preparedness, and other strategies as appropriate, and making recommendations to the City Council for adoption and implementation.

Lastly, The Commission reviews and makes recommendations on items referred by the City Council or other Commission.

Summary of 2019 Work Plan Activities

	Topic	Resources	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
1	Fire safety & community resilience in the face of a wildland-urban interface fire	Staff time, venue	Research, staff reports and information gathering	Recommendations on alerting, parking restrictions, sirens, vegetation management, and other topics to improve wildfire safety	Prevent loss of life by improving the City’s planning and available tools for WUI evacuation, and mitigate spread through fuel management.
2	Undergrounding Subcommittee	Staff time, venue	Currently in Phase 3 of a 3 year plan. Meetings with PG&E, community, and others.	Recommendation to either underground along arterials or mitigate hazard in another manner.	City Council to make a well informed decision on undergrounding efforts
3	Improve community resilience throughout Berkeley with a whole community approach	Community members’ time (volunteer), Commissioner time, and staff time.	Participate in a working group for community based disaster response	Recommendations to City Council to improve community resilience throughout Berkeley. May include Measure GG fund expenditures.	Measurable improvement in community preparedness, especially previously underserved communities & neighborhoods
4	Ensure that Measure GG	Commissioner time, staff time	Measure GG spending report is	Recommendations to City Council to ensure funds are	Fire stations remain open & disaster

	Funds are spent appropriately		reviewed by the Commission every 6 months	spent in accordance with the measure.	preparedness is improved by using Measure GG funds as intended.
5	Help other city entities incorporate a disaster and fire safety perspective into decisions	Commissioner time.	Respond to referrals seeking input on matters relating to disaster and fire safety.	Recommendations or other documentation to City Council and other Commissions that send referrals.	Incorporates disaster preparedness into City decisions, leading to a safer and more resilient city.

Work Plan Details

1. FIRE SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF A WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE

Resources

Specific resources include staff time to properly notice meetings and council submissions prepared by the Disaster Fire Safety Commission. A venue and staff time may be needed for community meetings.

Program Activities

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ALERTING AND EVACUATION

- This Commission has recommended that the city install sirens as a component of the suite of available alerting tools. We will continue to follow up on the progress of this recommendation through the budgeting process.
- Review and provide feedback and recommendations on the city’s draft evacuation plan.
- Review and provide feedback and recommendations on the city’s emergency alerting protocol. This will include the city’s compliance with state guidelines on WEA alerting in wildfires, anticipated in July 2019.
- Commissioners will attend community events and integrate community feedback and concerns into alerting and evacuation recommendations. Observe and/or participate in any evacuation drills that the City runs in 2019.
- Integrate the needs and contributions of seniors and people with mobility challenges or other access and functional needs in all of our emergency alerting and evacuation recommendations.

SAFE PASSAGES – ACCESS & EGRESS ON NARROW HILLS STREETS

- The Commission will review and provide recommendations on access and egress needs in a WUI fire, specifically the “Safe Passages” program that is part of the City’s Wildfire Safety Plan
- The Commission will work to monitor and recommend parking restrictions in the hills; for example, a simple approach such as painting curbs red on one side of all the streets narrower than 20 feet to allow access by first responders and clear the way for successful evacuation.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Support the City’s community outreach measures to improve vegetation management and slow the spread of a WUI fire in the hills
- Seek any available data on use of the chipper program, and explore if changes to the program would increase adoption
- Review and provide recommendations on new approaches to vegetation management, including employment of Youthworks (city youth jobs program) staff over the summer to reduce fire fuel in the hills

Encouraging, Supporting, Incentivizing or Mandating Property Owners to Reduce Vegetation and Fire Harden Their Properties

Scientists, State and local fire department officials, Wildfire responders, and forest management experts agree that the new California “norm” includes continued droughts and disastrous urban interface wildfires. Through studies and experience, there is agreement that individual property owners are essential component in the successful achievement of fire prevention goals that will increase life safety, reduce economic impact and preserve the environment. The Commission will take an active role to achieve these broad fire prevention goals through recommendations to the City Council in the following three areas:

- Policy declarations and advocacy in support of fire prevention activities at all levels of government;
- Public outreach regarding fire prevention planning, activities and responsibilities;
- Collection, analysis and distribution of financial information, including grants, fees, loans and insurance, related to fire prevention at both citywide and neighborhood levels.

Additional Items

Commissioners working independently in other capacities (such as in neighborhood groups in the hills, or as volunteers) may develop ideas to improve WUI safety in those environments and bring these to the Commission for consideration throughout the year.

Outputs

- Recommendations to City Council regarding parking restrictions on the hills, siren expenditures, vegetation management and other topics relevant to improving wildfire safety in the City.
- Feedback to city staff on the Draft Evacuation Plan and alerting tools and protocols.
- Recommendations to support testing and drills to ensure that both staff and residents are prepared to carry out emergency alerting and evacuations

Outcomes

Prevent loss of life by improving the City’s planning and available tools to create a safe and efficient evacuation of all endangered residents in the case of a major WUI fire. Improve and practice emergency alerting so that all residents are alerted adequately and in a timely manner of any life-threatening hazards such as an approaching fire.

2. UNDERGROUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE

Resources

Specific resources include staff time to properly notice meetings and council submissions prepared by the Undergrounding Subcommittee. A venue and staff time may be needed for community meetings.

Program Activities

The Undergrounding Subcommittee is in Phase Three of a proposed three year plan to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of undergrounding utility lines along arterial and collector streets throughout the City of Berkeley.

- Berkeley has now assigned an employee to work with the Undergrounding Subcommittee through the process of finalizing the plan and determining the expense of undergrounding utility lines along 2-3 major arterials to be used for evacuation from disasters.
- Berkeley already has undergrounded utilities along north-south arterials such as Telegraph, Sacramento, University, and San Pablo. Our focus in this phase will be on west-east ones such as Dwight, Gilman, and Marin.
- This subcommittee currently has members from the Public Works Commission and two liaison representatives, one each from the Disaster & Fire Safety and Transportation Commissions. The Disaster & Fire Safety Commission has two observers on the sub-committee: Paul Degenkolb and Bob Flasher.

Outputs

- Recommendation to Council that main arterials be undergrounded

Outcomes

- 2-3 more east-west arterials will have undergrounded utility lines for safety in evacuations.
- Lives will be saved in the next WUI by enhancing evacuation routes.

3. IMPROVE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGHOUT BERKELEY WITH A WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

Resources

Resources include community members' time (volunteer), Commissioners' and staff time to participate in working group and/or subcommittee work, and staff time to present yearly Berkeley Ready presentations to Commission.

Program Activities

Support accessible preparedness outreach and training, with a special focus on underserved and/or vulnerable members of our community, including residents of South and West Berkeley, seniors, persons with disabilities, families with children, Spanish-

speakers, and renters. Consider ideas toward the goal of equitably and adequately serving all people who live, work, study or play in Berkeley.

Community Based Disaster Response

Commission member(s) will continue to participate in a working group to explore ways to support community-based post-disaster response, creating an inclusive, broad-based response that better meets the post-disaster needs of all people in Berkeley:

- explore options to help give the community a better structure or pathway to participate in disaster response.
- explore ways to improve and support social cohesion throughout the city that will naturally increase post-disaster assistance, information-sharing, and shared resources among neighbors.

This may include new directions such as developing a network of “communication hubs” that community members can self-deploy and staff in a disaster.

To stay apprised of CERT and Berkeley Ready activities in the City, the Commission will host presentations at Commission meetings by the following groups:

- CERT Advisory Committee presentation(s)
- Berkeley Ready staff presentation(s)
- Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network (BDPNN)
- Disaster and Disability group

Community Fire Risk Reduction

Work towards ensuring that all people residing in or visiting Berkeley are in dwellings that adequately protect them from fire danger and that residents’ financial means are not associated with an increased fire danger:

- Explore options to ensure that renters who are concerned about the fire safety of their homes have a pathway to get their concerns addressed without putting their housing at risk
- Explore options to ensure that Airbnb rentals are fire safe
- Explore a Community Risk Reduction approach towards fire prevention, including on-request in-home fire risk inspections and fire escape planning, that do not include a code enforcement component
- Seek community-based approaches to reducing fire risk in homeless encampments

Additional Items

Commissioners working independently in other capacities (such as with schools and businesses) may develop ideas to improve community resilience in those environments and bring these to the Commission for consideration throughout the year.

Output(s)

- Develop recommendation(s) to City Council to enhance Berkeley Ready, CERT and other city programs to support community resilience. This may include scaling up current activities, or redirecting efforts towards new activities.

Outcomes

Measurable improvement to Berkeley's community preparedness. Measurement may be in number of people reached, or number of active volunteers, or new previously underserved populations reached.

4. ENSURE THAT MEASURE GG FUNDS ARE SPENT APPROPRIATELY

Resources

Commissioners' time and staff time to generate financial reports and present them to the Commission every 6 months

Program Activities

- Staff to generate a Measure GG spending report every 6 months
- Commission to review staff report every 6 months.
- Commission to provide recommendation on optional tax percentage increase

Output(s)

The Commission will create recommendations to Council if needed to ensure that Measure GG funds are used to enhance the safety of the Berkeley community and remain within the definition, scope, and intentions of the original law.

Outcomes

With funds correctly allocated, the goal of Measure GG is maintained: keeping all fire stations in the city open 24-7 as well as improving community resilience through programs such as Berkeley Ready.

5: HELP OTHER CITY ENTITIES INCORPORATE A DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY PERSPECTIVE INTO DECISIONS

Resources

Commissioners' time for research and recommendation creation

Program Activities

Respond to requests for input on matters relating to disaster and fire safety. Requests may come from City Council, City Staff, other Commissions, or the public.

- Examples of recent referrals:
 - City Council referral for feedback on Ordinance to Improve Fire Safety Standards for Rebuilt Fire Damaged Structures
 - City Council referral for feedback on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Staff request for feedback on Draft Evacuation plan
- Provide input into Council decisions when decisions will affect disaster resilience or fire safety in Berkeley

Output(s)

Recommendations to City Council or communications with other city entities, often in response to referrals.

Outcomes

City Council will incorporate disaster preparedness considerations into decisions, leading to a safer and more resilient city.

May 9, 2019

To: Gradiva Couzin and Members of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission:
Ruth Grimes, Anne Bailey, Antoinette Stein, Bob Flasher, Tobias Simmons, Paul Degenkolb
Keith May, Assistant Chief, Special Operations Division
Khin Chin, Associate Management Analyst

From: Shirley Dean

Re: Oakland Fire Preparedness Forum

On May 4, 2019 I attended a Fire Preparedness Forum held in Oakland at the Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland. The Forum was sponsored by the Oakland Firesafe Council, the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association and the Montclair Neighborhood Council. The meeting was moderated by Wendy Tokuda, a former tv newscaster who now is a fire preparedness activist in the City of Oakland. The following are the notes that I took during this well-attended event. Over-all the information was well-presented and this was an excellent event. I believe that the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission should consider sponsoring such an event in Berkeley.

The Forum opened with remarks given by Ed Orre, Division Chief, Unit Forester, California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE, Santa Clara Unit, Morgan Hill, CA. His topic was Lessons Learned from Recent Wildfires:

- It is critical that each person be prepared, as resources will not be available in the ways that we generally think will occur.
- These fires move rapidly, jump ahead and then fill-in untouched areas. A slide presentation was given that showed how the fire moved around.
- Grassfires move quickly, other types take longer
- All the recent wildfires have happened under adverse weather conditions
- People need to take warnings to heart. The intent of Red Flag warnings is to give people time to prepare to evacuate and prevent damage to your home. To give warnings as early as possible is the technology that's being worked on globally. Right now, watch for the Red Flags and get out of area ahead of time.
- As a rule of thumb, fire proceeds at 10% of wind speed.
- In the 1991 fire, the fire proceeded at speed of 11 football fields/minute. In the Camp Fire, it was 30 to 60 fields/minute. You can't outrun it.
- If everyone goes at the same time, in the same direction, it won't work.
- People may not get warnings. Both land lines and cell towers are vulnerable. Weather radios can send warnings but can also fail. This is reason why people are now talking about the old siren systems. Need redundancy.
- We need to identify temporary refuge areas because we can't get everyone out safely.

These comments were followed by a panel of four speakers, each from an organization who had 5 minutes each to speak on the general topic: What we can all do in our own homes to prepare. Some of the speakers used power point presentations, some did not. I couldn't catch all of the names of the speakers and the organizations they represented.

1. David Shew, Wildfire Defense Works, Napa, CA spoke on Reducing Ember Risk and Hardening Homes:
 - Wildfires are inevitable, but disasters don't have to be.
 - Embers are the highest single risk factor. 80 to 90% of every structure lost ignited because of embers (based on data from 41,000 structures.) If ignited in a wildfire, about 100% are destroyed.
 - Homes are vulnerable because embers get into concealed spaces or ignite the vegetation around them. Gave the example of cracks around garage doors and firewood stacked on decks.
 - Mentioned the homes in Paradise that met all new building requirements were the ones that survived. One of these homes within a single completely destroyed block was featured in a newspaper story.
 - No landscaping within 0-5 feet of a home tremendously reduced ignition chances. This is a constant maintenance issue for homeowners. Simple maintenance involves removing materials and fences.

2. Second speaker: Is Your Defensible Space Truly Defensible? Carol, author of a book, *Managing Fire in Urban Interfaces*.
 - Defensible space is taking a stance such as making gaps between bushes and ensuring that fire fighters can move around your house.
 - Defensive space includes your entire yard. Most important is the first 5 feet of space right around your house. Work out to your lot border starting from your house.
 - Leave space between bushes and reduce height. Remove vines going up the house. Take out bushes leaving a clump. Prune the bottom around trees. Work within 10 ft of road.
 - The driveway is part of the road.

3. Third speaker: Insurance. Does it Cover Your Home? Speaker is Chair of United Policy Owners, a national organization.
 - 60-70% of houses are underinsured for home value and contents.
 - How can you tell if you are underinsured? Look at your policy and find
 - a. The stated value of your dwelling
 - b. Value of non-detached structures
 - c. Value of contents
 - d. Loss of use
 - e. Extended coverage, e.g. upgrades
 Add a + b + e together, divide by square footage of house and this is what insurance will pay. Compare to the going rate for construction work per sq. ft in your area. If numbers don't work, meet with your insurance agent and find out what you have to do.
 - Don't wait to do this. Do it in advance, and then repeat every two years.
 - Take pictures of contents in advance and be sure they are date stamped. Insurance companies will want a complete inventory so pictures are important proof. Heirlooms usually require an insurance rider. An office where you work from home will usually require a separate policy.

4. Fourth Speaker: The Why of Preparedness

- Don't think of preparedness for its own sake. Think of it as your legacy to your children, grandchildren, whatever, whoever is important to you.
- Sign up for cell-phone alerts and heed them
- Take photos of jewelry, etc. and secure those photos as well as family/memento photos in your files so they survive.

The speakers were followed by questions from the audience and a brief break for coffee and food. Even though this session was followed by questions, I have combined all the questions from the audience at the end of the notes regarding the second half of the meeting.

The Second Half of the meeting centered around organizing your neighborhood. Again, this was what they called a "speed round," i.e. 5-minute presentations each, some of which included power point slides. Most of these speakers seemed to be from neighborhood groups that represented 20 – 50 homes.

1. First speaker: Organizing Your Neighborhood

- A neighborhood group is a group of neighbors who get together to know one another and to act together.
- Need a block captain and a roster of the people in the group. Some are CERT certified.
- There is power in numbers and opportunities to socialize.
- The Piedmont Pines N.A. has Leaders Guide. There is a Firewise USA Program website that gives ways to be certified.

2. Second speaker: Organizing Work Parties

- These are citywide.
- Adopt a spot, do community clean ups, open space stewardship. Use of power tools is prohibited due to liability, so groups do work with regular tools. Coming up is a competition – "Battle of the Bay, Oakland vs San Francisco"

3. Third speaker: Getting Rid of Flammable Trees. Diablo Fire Safe Council

- Covers all of Alameda County, and all fire hazard zones.
- They will fund some small community groups (5 or more) and provide mini grants to fund projects that groups can't do themselves such as hiring a contractor. They will ask for community contributions in dollars or sweat equity. Examples were giving of projects that involved chipping, removing tree limbs, weed-whacking, tree thinning, green-waste removal, obtaining a dumpster. Forms for these grants are on their website. They meet third Thursday of every month, 9:30 am., EBMUD building on San Pablo Dam Road. The public is welcome to attend.

4. Fourth speaker: Neighborhood Evacuation Planning

- Fires are fast-moving. Don't wait to be told to go. You can't out-run it.
- Red Flag Days – leave early

- Pre-planning is important.
- Have a destination plan and how to connect for each member of your family.
- Have alternatives in mind and how to get there.
- Your stuff is not important.
- There should be 14 feet in the street to allow fire trucks to get through.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS:

- Fire Hydrants: What needs to be done to ensure they are ready and usable?
Citizens need to convince government to make response to fire a priority. This includes hydrants that don't meet current standards for distance from each other, ensuring that hydrant couplings are compatible with mutual aid responders, and also educating property owners about home hardening. Community members can either engage in clearing debris around fire hydrants themselves, or inspect and contact their fire department to do that. Contact your local fire department to help with setting up bollards that might be necessary to protect some hydrant locations. A typical fire truck holds only 500 gallons of water. Responders don't have the time to stop and set up. If the address they respond to presents a problem for them, they will go on the next house that they can save. EBMUD depends on electricity to pump water. They use portable generators if electricity fails.
- Types of Roofs and Structure Hardening: What's best to do?
There are 3 types of roofs, A, B and C. A is the most fire resistant, but even if you have a type A roof, you have to look at how the roof is attached and plug up the small spaces around the roof – called “bird stopping.” Codes are not retroactive. There is no funding for retroactive action as new requirements are adopted. New requirements were adopted in 2008, Chapter 7A Building Code. The City of Santa Rosa has rejected requirements for using these new standards for new construction. AB 38 is set up to require consistent standards for fire prevention. It will include hydrants. Dollars will come from cap and trade funding.
- Tree Removal: Where is funding assistance available?
Contact P.G.&E regarding trees that have either contact with power lines, or are within the space that must be kept clear. At one time there were parcel fees for inspection of properties and some vegetation management. Consider that contractors will offer discounts when a group is involved. Also, again look at AB 38.
- Worst Trees: What are worst trees in high risk areas?
Junipers, Monterey Pine and Eucalyptus.
- Vegetation Management: How to accomplish?
There isn't enough money in City budgets. Most work is done by volunteers. Cities need a specific plan. AB 38 may pay for plans to reduce fuel.
- Walkie-Talkies: Should neighborhoods use walk-talkies to remain in contact?
Yes, communication redundancy is good, particularly when power lines go down.
- Individual Actions: What can the individual home owner do now?
Clear out all flammable materials that on are your deck and beneath it. Look at how the deck is attached and plug spaces.
- Schools: What do they have to do?

The issue is school fire safety plans. There is a law, but no enforceability that a school has to comply. AB 1215. A city can issue a notice of non-compliance, but a school doesn't have to comply or even practice what to do.

- Evacuation: What is advice?
Leave in your car. Most things can be replaced. When it is time to leave – Go, don't debate what to take. As you go, honk a SOS signal – 3 longs, 3 shorts. Realize you are likely to be out of your home for months. Plan ahead.
- Insurance: What's happening?
Insurers are leaving California. Standardizing criteria is being discussed, so that something other than your zip code may be considered. Insurers have to give you 90 days notice about renewals. Usually what happens is that you have to pay more and get less coverage. Insurers are completely revamping the levels of risk worldwide and changing risk assessment models. Industry is aware of new technology and if you are doing the right things you will get credit for it.
- Community Action: What's needed?
Work to get a Community Wildfire Protection Plan enacted.
- Fire Danger Signs: Are they needed?
We need more and greater visibility.

Information on AB 38 is attached as a separate document. I couldn't find anything regarding what I recorded as being AB 1215. If I find such information, I will forward it to you.

This is an attachment to my notes on the Oakland Fire Preparedness Forum that I attended on May 4, 2019.

AB 38 was introduced in December 2018 by Assembly Member Jim Wood, District 2. This District encompasses all of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity Counties and about 40% of Sonoma County that includes the City of Santa Rosa. The bill is currently being considered in the Appropriations Committee.

Shirley Dean

AB 38 provides that On and after July 1, 2025, a seller of a building in a very high fire hazard severity zone, shall provide to the buyer a certificate certifying that low-cost retrofits developed and listed pursuant to Section 51189 of the Government Code have been undertaken on the building.

It Establishes a State Wildfire Preparedness Board that

- reviews and approves regional wildfire protection plans prepared by each regional wildfire prevention district, and*
- creates and implements a statewide fire preparedness public education campaign, including outreach to the public about defensible space requirements, home hardening retrofits and the Fire Hardened Homes Revolving Loan and Rebate Fund established pursuant to Section 55501 of the Health and Safety Code.*

18 regional wildfire prevention districts are established. District 9 comprises Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Each regional wildfire prevention district, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall, among other duties,

(d) Develop a region-specific wildfire prevention and preparedness plan that shall include all of the following:

(1) Review each jurisdiction's safety element, hazard mitigation plan, and community wildfire protection plan to identify improvements and outstanding recommendations and projects.

(2) Identify fire prevention organizational or capacity deficits within the district.

(3) Identify projects that relevant state agencies should prioritize for local fire prevention assistance grants.

(4) A region-specific vegetation management ordinance that could be adopted by the relevant jurisdictions within the regional wildfire prevention district.

(5) Strategic fire break and fuel reduction projects to provide community protection.

(e) Provide education and technical assistance to landowners, residents, and regional community fire prevention advisory groups on fire prevention and land management practices to improve fire safety in the district's region.

(f) Review and recommend to the State Wildfire Preparedness Board possible methods of financing ongoing fire preparedness measures, including loan and grant programs, that may be implemented by the member departments of the board.

(g) Promote, organize, and support the implementation of regional community fire evacuation drills.

Establishes a Fire Hardened Homes Revolving Loan and Rebate Fund

(a) "Eligible building" means a building existing as of January 1, 2020, and containing not more than one unit that is intended for human habitation located within a very high fire hazard severity zone, as identified by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 51178 of the Government Code or Article 9 (commencing with Section 4201) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 4 of the Public Resources Code.

(b) "Eligible costs" means all costs, including costs of design, preparation, and inspection, incurred in the following:

(1) Replacing or installing the following:

(A) Ember-resistant vents.

(B) Fire-resistant roofing.

(C) Fire-resistant siding.

(D) Fire-resistant eaves.

(E) Fire-resistant soffits.

(F) Fire-resistant windows.

(2) Establishing a noncombustible zone of five feet around an eligible building.

(3) Tree removal and trimming within 100 feet of an eligible building.

(a) There is established in the State Treasury the Fire Hardened Homes Revolving Loan and Rebate Fund. Moneys in the fund shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature, be made available to the California Statewide Communities Development Authority to provide financing assistance or rebates to owners of eligible buildings to pay for eligible costs of fire hardening as follows:

(1) No- and low-interest loans to a person who owns an eligible building and has an income level up to 120 percent of the area median income.

(2) Rebates for up to 80 percent of the cost of the retrofit to a person who owns an eligible building and has an income level up to 80 percent of the area median income.

(b) Financing provided by a local agency pursuant to this division shall not, when combined with existing liens on the property, exceed 80 percent of the current appraised value of the property, as determined by an independent, certified appraiser, unless existing lienholders consent in writing to a higher loan-to-value ratio. Notice of the intention to provide financing to the owner of the property shall be given to existing lienholders of record not less than 30 days before any vote of the local agency authorizing the provision of financing to the owner of the property.

(c) The California Statewide Communities Development Authority shall develop guidelines for the financing assistance and rebates provided pursuant to this section, subject to approval by the State Wildfire Preparedness Board established pursuant to Section 8580 of the Government Code.

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1981 (Limón)

As Amended August 21, 2018

Majority vote

ASSEMBLY: 78-0 (May 29, 2018)

SENATE: 39-0 (August 28, 2018)

Original Committee Reference: **NAT. RES.**

SUMMARY: Adds the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to the departments that the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) consult with when developing and implementing policies relating to meeting the state's organic waste recycling goals and to encouraging the use of compost.

The Senate amendments:

- 1) Add SB 1383 ((Lara), Chapter 727, Statutes of 2016) to the list of legislation for which CalEPA and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) must assess the state's progress toward achieving.
- 2) Require CalEPA and CDFA to take into consideration site-specific ecology when supporting postfire recovery efforts using compost.
- 3) Make non-substantive technical and clarifying changes to the bill.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, this bill has negligible state costs.

COMMENTS:

Meeting the state's recycling goals. CalRecycle is tasked with diverting at least 75% of solid waste statewide by 2020. Organic materials make up over half of the waste stream (54.8%); food continues to be the greatest single item disposed, comprising approximately 18% of materials landfilled. Leaves, grass, prunings, and trimmings represent just under 7% of the total waste stream.

Local governments are required to submit Source Reduction and Recycling Elements and comprehensive annual reports to CalRecycle to identify the programs and plans to ensure they meet the state's 50% diversion requirement for local jurisdictions and to assist CalRecycle in meeting the state's 75% diversion goal. Pursuant to AB 341 (Chesbro), Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011, generators are required to arrange for recycling services and requires local governments to implement commercial solid waste recycling programs designed to divert solid waste from businesses. AB 1826 (Chesbro), Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014, requires generators of specified amounts of organic waste (i.e., food waste and yard waste) to arrange for recycling services for that material.

Organic waste is primarily recycled using anaerobic digestion or composting. Anaerobic digestion is the controlled breakdown of organic matter without air, used to manage waste and/or to release energy. It is a biological process that produces an energy-rich biogas, which is used as a fuel. This technology has been used in the United States for decades in wastewater treatment

facilities and dairy manure digesters. It is increasingly being used to manage the state's organic waste stream, including food waste, to generate clean energy. Digestate, the material left over at the end of the process, is similar to compost and can be composted with other material or used alone as a soil amendment. Composting is the aerobic controlled decomposition of organic material, such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings, and food scraps to produce compost, which can be used as a soil amendment and for slope stabilization.

Woody waste, such as the material removed in forest thinning projects, can be processed into mulch, which is used to control weeds or erosion, retain moisture in soil, and insulate soil from cold weather. Other materials commonly used for mulch include wood chips, ground up landscape trimmings, shredded bark, coarse compost material, straw, and shredded paper.

Compost and similar soil amendments have been shown to provide numerous benefits, including preserving topsoil and preventing erosion, increasing the water retention capacity of soil, reducing and improving the water quality of stormwater runoff, increasing the number of beneficial microorganisms, providing stable, slow-release nutrients, and enhancing soil carbon sequestration. Compost used in natural environments should meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) requirements of a "process to further reduce pathogens." This process requires that the compost meet specific time and temperature requirements to destroy pathogens that may be present in the organic material prior to composting.

California wildfires. The 2017 fire season was devastating. Over 1.3 million acres burned in high-severity wildfires and over 10,000 structures were destroyed. Fire has always been present in California landscapes either occurring by lightning strikes or used by Native American tribes to preserve certain useful plants and prevent larger fires. Low-intensity fires have clear ecological benefits such as creating habitat and assisting in the regeneration of certain species of plants and trees. Low-intensity fire also reduces surface fuel, which decreases future wildfire intensity. However, after a century of fire exclusion, logging of older growth and more fire-resistant trees, and a significant five-year drought, the size and severity of California's fires has increased dramatically. Climate change has also contributed to wildfire risk by reducing humidity and precipitation and increasing temperatures.

In the fall and winter of 2017 high winds and low humidity created the conditions that led to major fires in Butte, Lake, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Riverside, San Diego, Solano, Sonoma, Ventura, and Yuba counties. This included the Thomas fire, which was the largest wildfire in California history. Between October and December wildfires caused the tragic loss of 44 lives, which is more than the last 10 years combined. Many places in California experienced the worst air quality on record, including for deadly particulate matter 2.5. These massive fires also created significant amounts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The 2017 wildfires produced more GHG emissions than every car, truck, and big rig on the state's roads in one year.

The lands destroyed by fire, especially those near populated areas, require restoration to reduce the risk of mudslides and foster regrowth. Significant rains following the Thomas fire resulted in a severe mudslide in Montecito on January 9th. The mudslide destroyed over 100 homes and 21 people were killed.

Providing stability. Compost products are effective at stabilizing slopes and reducing erosion on exposed soils, including after wildfires. According to the US EPA, compost can absorb four times its weight in water and can replace essential organic matter in soils. Compost also provides an excellent growing medium for young seedlings and fosters native plant growth. This bill adds CAL FIRE to an existing interagency group focused on reducing GHG emissions and landfill of organic waste and encouraging the continued viability of the state's organic waste and promoting the appropriate use of compost on the state's working lands. Increasing the use of compost in the state has the additional benefit of expanding the market for compost products, which will assist the state in meeting its organic waste diversion GHG emission reduction goals.

Analysis Prepared by: Elizabeth MacMillan / NAT. RES. / (916) 319-2092

FN: 0005045

Assembly Bill No. 1981

CHAPTER 633

An act to amend Section 42649.87 of the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste.

[Approved by Governor September 21, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State September 21, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1981, Limón. Organic waste: composting.

Existing law requires, until January 1, 2021, the California Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, to develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills by promoting the composting of specified organic waste and by promoting the appropriate use of that compost throughout the state.

This bill would revise and recast this and related provisions, including, among other changes, imposing additional duties on those state agencies relating to promoting the application of compost and additionally including the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in the state agencies in coordination with which the California Environmental Protection Agency is required to develop and implement the above-specified policies. The bill would also require the California Environmental Protection Agency additionally to work with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Forest Management Task Force to achieve the goal of reducing at least 5 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year through the development and application of compost on working lands. The bill would postpone the repeal of these provisions until January 1, 2026.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 42649.87 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

42649.87. (a) The California Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the department, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air Resources Board, the Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, shall develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills by promoting the use of agricultural, forestry, and urban organic waste as a feedstock for compost and by promoting the appropriate use of that compost throughout the state to improve the state's soil organic matter.

(b) In developing policies pursuant to subdivision (a), the California Environmental Protection Agency shall promote a goal of reducing at least five million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year through the development and application of compost on working lands, which include, but are not limited to, agricultural land, land used for forestry, and rangeland. The California Environmental Protection Agency shall work with the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Forest Management Task Force to achieve this goal.

(c) The Secretary for Environmental Protection and the Secretary of Food and Agriculture shall ensure proper coordination of agency regulations and goals to implement this section. The California Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Food and Agriculture, with the department, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the State Air Resources Board, shall do all of the following:

(1) Assess the state's progress towards developing the organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure necessary to meet the state goals specified in Assembly Bill 341 (Chapter 476 of the Statutes of 2011), Assembly Bill 1826 (Chapter 727 of the Statutes of 2014), Senate Bill 1383 (Chapter 395 of the Statutes of 2016), the State Air Resources Board's May 2015 Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy concept paper, and the Department of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Soils Initiative.

(2) Meet at least quarterly and consult with interested stakeholders, including, but not limited to, the compost industry, local governments, agricultural land managers, and environmental organizations, to encourage the continued viability of the state's organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure.

(3) Hold at least one public workshop annually to inform the public of actions taken to implement this section and to receive public comment.

(4) Develop recommendations for promoting organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure statewide, which shall be posted on the California Environmental Protection Agency's Internet Web site no later than January 1, 2017, and updated annually thereafter.

(5) Promote watershed health, reduce fire risk, and improve postfire recovery by encouraging projects that use woody biomass from forests and working lands and that promote the management of woody biomass through onsite wood chip application and integration with other organic waste streams for the purpose of creating compost, where appropriate.

(6) Support postfire recovery efforts to reduce erosion and stabilize fire-damaged land by encouraging the application of compost, while taking into consideration site-specific ecology, to restore soil aggregation, increase water infiltration, reduce runoff, prevent erosion, and support plant growth, where appropriate.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2026, deletes or extends that date.

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Fact Sheet on Emergency Proclamation on Wildfire Risk

March 22, 2019



Summary: Citing extreme peril posed by wildfire risk, Governor Newsom issued an [Emergency Proclamation](#) directing CAL FIRE to immediately implement projects to protect lives and property. To ensure necessary work can get underway immediately, the proclamation suspends certain requirements and regulations as needed to carry out its directives. The Wildfire State of Emergency Proclamation can be found at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/3.22.19-Wildfire-State-of-Emergency.pdf>.

1. What projects will CAL FIRE implement?

CAL FIRE has identified 35 priority projects that can be implemented immediately to help reduce public safety risk for over 200 of California's most wildfire-vulnerable communities. Project examples include removal of hazardous dead trees, vegetation clearing, creation of fuel breaks and community defensible spaces, and creation of safer ingress and egress corridors. Project descriptions can be found at <http://www.fire.ca.gov/general/45-DayReport>.

The projects will focus on small and medium diameter ladder fuels and understory vegetation. Most of the vegetation removal will occur in the understory and be aimed at reducing excessive tree densities in the lower canopy. Few large trees will be removed. The projects are part of an all-of-the-above approach to protecting public safety this year.

2. What requirements are being suspended and why?

The emergency proclamation provides the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) discretion to suspend state environmental permitting requirements on a case-by-case basis so that the 35 priority projects can get underway immediately, including suspending requirements to prepare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. Absent a waiver, the CAL FIRE projects would require CEQA review prior to implementation, which can take months or years to complete. To ensure environmental protection during implementation of the 35 priority projects, CAL FIRE will work to identify and avoid sensitive natural and archaeological resources when designing and constructing fuels reduction projects. The proclamation also suspends certain requirements for

licensing and procurement where possible to allow CAL FIRE to immediately begin work on priority fuel reduction projects.

3. What steps will be taken to protect environmental, cultural and historical resources during implementation of the 35 priority projects?

To ensure environmental protection when designing and constructing fuels reduction projects, CAL FIRE will work to identify and avoid sensitive natural and archaeological resources using the following approach:

- Known sites of rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals will not be disturbed, threatened, or damaged by CAL FIRE or its contractors during project implementation. Information on these sites is available from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Natural Diversity Database. CAL FIRE will query this database during project scoping to evaluate the presence of biological resources and ensure biological resource protection by avoiding any such sites. Where unmapped resources may be, trained field crews (including but not limited to Registered Professional Foresters) will be onsite to identify possible resource issues ahead of project work as it progresses. Further, in working with the CDFW and the Water Boards, CAL FIRE will engage staff of those agencies to ensure field protocols are followed to avoid resources such as nesting sites or wetlands, and minimize unnecessary disturbance to unlisted species, by following best management practices assigned by CDFW.
- CAL FIRE and its contractors will avoid damaging known archaeological or historical sites. Information on these sites may be available from the Information Centers of the California Historical Resources Information System within the California Department of Parks and Recreation. CAL FIRE will query this system during project scoping to evaluate the presence of cultural resources and ensure cultural resource protection by avoiding any such sites. Where unmapped resources may be, trained field crews (including but not limited to Registered Professional Foresters) will be onsite to identify possible resource issues ahead of project work as it progresses.
- A Registered Professional Forester or designee will be onsite during project implementation to assist with resource identification and protection as these projects progress to completion. The standard practice of resource identification and avoidance will be adhered to for resource protection, in conjunction with Best Management and Operational Practices as determined by departments and agencies with jurisdiction over the 35 projects.

In addition, CAL FIRE will employ standard Forest Practice Rule best management practices for projects in all landscapes – whether forest, chaparral or oak lands – to

ensure resource protection. Environmental resource professionals are engaged early in project design, including Registered Professional Foresters, environmental scientists, archeologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, fire scientists, and various other experts in natural resource protection. While specific measures may vary, standard protective measures include the following:

- Limiting heavy equipment operations on steep slopes.
- Avoiding work within areas near lakes and streams.
- Avoiding known sites of rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals, as well as significant archaeological and historical sites, are during the construction of a fuel break.
- Ensuring that Registered Professional Foresters or other qualified personnel will be onsite during operations to evaluate the presence of potential resources and to ensure protection through avoidance.

4. What does the emergency proclamation mean for other state fuels reduction and wildfire mitigation projects not associated with the 35 priority projects?

The emergency proclamation applies exclusively to the 35 projects identified by CAL FIRE, noted above. Otherwise, CAL FIRE initiated projects are subject to the environmental review and permitting process. A Program [Environmental Impact Report](#) (EIR) is currently under preparation to evaluate potential environmental impacts of future CAL FIRE vegetation treatments to reduce wildfire risks and avoid or diminish the harmful effects of wildfire on the people, property, and natural resources in the State of California. The draft Program EIR is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

5. How will the 35 projects contribute to achieving the 500,000-acre goal for 2019? The

35 priority projects collectively cover 90,000 acres, which would add significantly to the number of acres treated in 2019. The Forest Carbon Plan has a goal of treating 500,000 acres of private land every year. The priority fuel reduction projects would treat approximately 90,000 acres, or about 20% of the goal.

6. How will the projects be funded and at what cost?

The 35 priority fuel reduction projects identified by CAL FIRE would cost approximately \$30 million to complete. These funds would come from the fiscal year 2018-2019 Forest Health and Fire Prevention budget allocation.

7. How much fuels management has been done over the past four years?

Since 2010, California has nearly doubled the number of acres treated by fuel reduction and tripled the number of acres treated by prescribed burning. Recent fuels management work includes:

Table 1. Acres treated by CAL FIRE

Fiscal Year	Fuels Reduction	Prescribed Fire	Total
2018/2019 (through January 2019)	5,490	10,352	15,842 (to date)
2017/2018	13,344	19,413	32,757
2016/2017	15,755	13,941	29,696
2015/2016	11,481	16,896	28,377
2014/2015	14,728	3,331	18,059

Despite this work, California faces a massive backlog of forest management work. Millions of acres need treatment, and this work – once completed – must be repeated over the years.

8. What is California doing to help with home / community hardening?

California arguably has some of the most stringent wildland building codes in the world. Since 2008, new construction in California's wildlands requires building materials that are ember-resistant. For homes built before the 2008 standards, CAL FIRE is working to develop a list of low-cost retrofit steps homeowners can take. In addition, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) maintains an advisory committee of fire and building officials that continuously considers building code updates to improve fire safety. Most recently, OSFM advanced building code changes including sealing of garage door gaps, sealing skylights and safety improvements to outbuildings.

Homeowners also are encouraged to actively maintain defensible space, which is defined as a minimum 100-foot area around a home where all dead, dying and overgrown vegetation has been removed. Since grass, brush and trees grow throughout the year, maintenance is an ongoing task. California inspected more than 217,600 homes for defensible space compliance since in 2017-2018 alone.

Under AB 2911 of 2017, CAL FIRE is beginning to work with the Board of Forestry to review subdivisions in wildland areas that were built without secondary emergency egress to improve both public evaluations and emergency access. Another critical piece is CAL FIRE's Land Use Planning Program, which works with local planning and building professionals to help them develop the safety element of their General Plans as well as Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.

9. What steps will CAL FIRE take to engage communities and inform the public?

CAL FIRE continues to partner with numerous organizations to educate the public about fire prevention and safe practices through social media, community meetings, fairs and other events. CAL FIRE units also educate and inform the public about prescribed burn projects in local areas through social media and community events.

In addition, CAL FIRE will work with the Forest Management Task Force to develop coordinated messaging on public education campaigns, including coordinated messaging for Cal Volunteers and Office of Emergency Services grants consistent with AB 72 enacted earlier this year.

May 11, 2019

To: Gradiva Couzin and Members of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission,
Anne Bailey
Paul Degenkolb
Bob Flasher
Ruth Grimes
Tobias Simmons
Antoinette Stein
Assistant Chief Keith May
Khin Chin

From: Shirley Dean

Re: Discussion of Recommendations to Include in Work Plan Actions regarding Fire Prevention and Fire Hardening of Structures

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION: Note: Items are not listed in priority order.

1. Advocate that the City Council declare Fire Prevention as a priority item in the City budget.
2. Request that the City Council actively support AB 38 and similar bills as we learn about them in the future.
3. Develop a guide to be mailed to property owners describing the importance of Defensible Space and Fire Hardening of structures, and also require owners of rental properties to inform their tenants.
4. Develop a notice (similar to that required by the State for purchasers of property in the Alquist-Priolo zone) to purchasers of property in other designated risk areas that the structure is located in such an area, and extending such notice to be given to tenants of properties by owners of properties located in both the Alquist-Priolo Zone and other risk areas.
5. Undertake a study of re-instating the fire inspection parcel tax in designated high-risk fire areas and estimating costs regarding vegetation management and fire hardening of structures and based on that information recommend appropriate City action which would include small, no to low-cost City loans to property owners to undertake the necessary work.
6. Gather and develop a guide for owners and renters regarding understanding and evaluating insurance coverage in the event of disasters.
7. Sponsor Fire Preparedness and Prevention forums in several locations in the City to encourage not only individual preparedness and the dissemination of information, but also the formation of volunteer groups to undertake projects regarding vegetation management, such groups to be formed and act in the manner of the former 'Christmas in April. Program.

Chin, Khin

From: bob flasher <rangerdude333@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 8:40 AM
To: Chin, Khin
Subject: Fw: Evacuation drill results

More info for DFSC. Five hill groups participated in an evacuation drill on May 4 to aid our physical memory of what to do and what to bring. Here is a summary:

Drive Drill 5/4/19: Congratulations survivors!

Today's Drive Drill to the Rose Garden was a success - many doughnuts were passed out!

To simply grab your Go Bag and get out of your house was the point of this exercise.

23 families participated, from 5 different preparedness groups - Thank you all!

Very good info was shared by survivors: what they remembered (like passports, flash drive, cat carrier) as well as what they forgot (medications, glasses).

Almost everybody (except 4 people) brought their Go Bags, 2 people have "trunk Go Bags" with them at all times in their car.

Except for a flock of Turkeys, no traffic issues were revealed, yet many voiced this would not be likely in the event of a real emergency.

Assistant Chief Keith May, Special Operations Division, Public Information Officer, Berkeley Fire Department, was in attendance. He expressed gratitude for our exercise of preparedness and looks forward to speaking to us, with our follow up questions and concerns. Please contact your group leader to coordinate this insightful opportunity, the more faces there the better!

For those wishing immediate info, here's a link to Berkeley Office of Emergency services, assisting you to respond to and recover from our next earthquake, fire, or other disaster.

<https://www.cityofberkeley.info/ready/>

What? No Go Bag? Then please attend: 5/14 – Berkeley Wildfire Evacuation Workshop, 6-7p, North Branch Library, 1170 The Alameda - Learn about Berkeley's new wildfire evacuation draft plan in this one hour presentation. You'll learn how to pack a wildfire "go bag," how to receive information during a wildfire and the steps to take while evacuating to keep your family and neighbors safe. Presented by the Berkeley Ready team from the City of Berkeley Office of Emergency

Services. <https://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/events/berkeley-wildfire-evacuation-workshop-north>

See you at the next drill!

Berkeley Hills Preparedness Groups:
<BerkHillsPrepGroups.jpeg>

Chin, Khin

From: bob flasher <rangerdude333@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 8:29 AM
To: Chin, Khin
Subject: Fw: Supervisors Must Be Held to Account | Alameda Sun

Khin,

Did I send you this article to include in the DFSC packet? See text of the article below the link.

Bob

<https://alamedasun.com/news/supervisors-must-be-held-account>

Article form the *Alameda Sun*

M. Adams

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Recently, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors made a shocking and shameful decision. Supervisors Wilma Chan, Richard Valle and Keith Carson should be held accountable for their reckless and absurd decision to effectively turn away more than \$5 million from the Department of Homeland Security based on a vocal, but minuscule minority of misinformed members of the community.

The money funded the Urban Area Security Initiative Regional Training and Exercise Program and included the annual exercise: Urban Shield. The Urban Shield exercise hosted by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office was the largest regional exercise of its type both nationally and internationally. Since inception in 2007 as a regional SWAT exercise it has grown to include community members, emergency response teams, emergency management, paramedics, fire, medical practitioners, private industry and other state and federal emergency preparedness stakeholders.

Last year, more than 9,000 people participated in the Urban Shield exercise. The anti-Urban Shield group claims that the exercise is too centered on law-enforcement. By the way, there were just 240 SWAT team participants compared to more than 7,000 other emergency responders, volunteers, community members and medical practitioners who were involved.

Local hospital personnel rotated through a simulated surge of patients into an emergency department to simulate and prepare for a real event. Some of the concerns of the "anti-Urban Shield" crowd are legitimate, such as addressing the need for more all-hazards and community preparedness opportunities. They are misguided that they believe the funding can be applied to programs outside of having a nexus to terrorism.

The funding, according to federal guidelines, needs to have a nexus to terrorism. No one argues the need for more community preparedness, however, it is against the grant guidelines to move this money to other purposes. The Board of Supervisors knew this. Shamefully, they bowed to the vocal anti-law enforcement minority.

By their actions, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors also recommended complete defunding of the program, hosted by the Sheriff's Office.

The program has been serving the training and exercise needs of the majority of all Bay Area first responders, emergency managers and other emergency preparedness and security stakeholders. Year-to-date the program has provided no-cost training to 31,118 people in multiple disciplines from throughout the Bay Area.

It should be noted that the Bay Area initiative's region is ranked fifth nationally by the Department of Homeland Security for being at risk of a terrorist attack.

The decision to defund the program's initiatives, training and exercises was made by the Bay Area approval authority at its March 14 meeting after being told of the conditions the Supervisors wanted to impose as part of their annual agreement with the Bay Area initiative that funds the program. The outrageous and illegitimate conditions the Supervisors adopted prevented the Approval Authority from administering Department of Homeland Security Grant Program funds according to published grant guidelines.

BOS knew this and with the utmost arrogance and shortsightedness, they went ahead anyway. BOS effectively handcuffed and defunded training and exercises for the entire Bay Area. Supervisors Chan, Carson and Valle are to blame.

During the March 12 Supervisors meeting, Valle actually said the following, "if we lose this grant, I'll only have myself to blame" referring to the misguided notion that their adoption of the ad-hoc groups recommendations (or more accurately termed "demands") would not result in the grant money going away. The money is gone, out of Alameda County.

Thank you to Supervisors Scott Haggerty and Nate Miley for understanding that great strides have been taken by the Sheriff's office and the greater program has made in being inclusive, transparent and serving the entire community. Only these two supervisors represent the vast majority of Alameda County residents who support our first responders

Audit News

from the City Auditor

May 2019

Yesterday my office released an audit of Berkeley's mandated fire inspections program. In 2018, the incoming Fire Chief identified concerns about property inspections and asked my office as an impartial independent entity to help identify the scope of the problem and develop achievable solutions moving forward.

We found that the Fire Department has nearly 2,500 unresolved violations remaining from its 2018 inspections and did not inspect over 500 properties that year. The fire inspection program staffing has not kept up with demand, which has greatly increased due to population growth and increased development - coupled with Berkeley's regulations which exceed state standards. The City has a choice: we can either cut back on inspections and prioritize high-risk properties or increase funding to the department in order to fulfill current requirements.

We determined that Fire staff need more support to be able to complete mandated inspections. Fire does not perform risk assessments to balance competing priorities and target high-risk properties. They also do not sufficiently communicate with staff and the community, provide enough hands-on training, or have a process for performing enforcement activities that would bring in revenue to support the program.