

AGENDA
Disaster Fire and Safety Commission
February 24, 2021
7:00 PM

District 1 – Ruth Grimes

District 5 – Shirley Dean

District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet

District 6 – Nancy Rader

District 3 – Gradiva Couzin

District 7 – Robert Simmons

District 4 – Antoinette Stein

District 8 – Paul Degenkolb

Mayor's Appointee- Jose Luis Bedolla

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, the February 24, 2021 meeting of the Disaster, Fire and Safety Commission will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order and the Shelter-in-Place Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, there will not be a physical meeting location available.

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL <https://zoom.us/j/96526127677> If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen.

*To join by phone: Dial 1-669-900-9128 and enter Meeting ID 965 2612 7677. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. Please be mindful that all other rules of procedure and decorum will apply for Commission meetings conducted by teleconference or videoconference*

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Fire Department Staff Report

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of January 27, 2021*

Action Items

3. Annual Election of Officers
4. Commission Annual Workplan*
5. Measure FF Oversight Recommendation*
6. Forming a Subcommittee on Accessory Dwelling Units, Parking, and the Safe Passages Program

Discussion Items

7. Vision 2050 Presentation from Staff*
8. Cerritos Canyon
9. Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday January 27, 2021

Present: Ruth Grimes, Gradiva Couzin, Jose Luis Bedolla, Paul Degenkolb, Robert Flasher, Toby Simmons, Toni Stein, Shirley Dean, Weldon Bradstreet

Absent:

Staff: Keith May, Khin Chin, David Brannigan, David Sprague, Valentina Edwards, Peter Hong, Matt George, Abraham Roman

Public: 9 Attendees

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

G. Couzin called meeting to order at 7:01pm

Approval of the Agenda

Move Item 4 to Item 6, and Item 6 to Item 4.

Approved by Acclimation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Kelly Hammergren said that she was interested in the commission's future further discussion City's Evacuation Plan.

David Peattie said he was speaking on behalf of Berkeley Mutual Aid and would urge the Commission to invite a representative of Berkeley Mutual Aid to speak at the commission to discuss how to make disaster preparedness and response more community based.

Margit Roos-Collins commented on the causes of houses burning in wildland fires and the effectiveness of ember resistant roofs.

Fire Department Staff Report

Grizzly Peak Interagency group has recently met and the agency representatives agreed upon the MOU between The City of Oakland and the UCB PD, Berkeley PD, East Bay Regional Park District PD, Moraga-Orinda PD. The MOU has been sent to all of these agencies to go through their respective City process for approval.

The group also recognizes that the actions of this group has only been a short-term fix. Going forward, the group will be looking at a more permanent solution.

Consent Items

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of December 2, 2020*

Motion to approve as submitted: Flasher

Second: Couzin

Vote: 7 Ayes: Couzin, Flasher, Stein, Degenkolb, Grimes, Bedolla, Simmons; 0 Noes; 0 Absent: 2 Abstain: Dean, Bradstreet

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of December 14, 2020*

Motion to approve as submitted: Couzin

Second: Flasher

Vote: 6 Ayes: Couzin, Flasher, Stein, Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet; 0 Noes; 0 Absent: 3; Abstain: Grimes, Degenkolb, Simmons,

Action Items

Discussion Items

3. Commission Annual Workplan
4. Measure FF Budget Priorities (presentation from staff)
5. Staff Presentation on Prioritized Dispatch for Re-Imagining Public Safety
6. Forming a Working Group: ADU, Parking Ordinances, Safe Passages
7. Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Couzin

Second: Flasher

Vote: 9 Ayes: Couzin, Dean, Flasher, Stein, Degenkolb, Grimes, Bradstreet, Bedolla, Simmons; 0 Noes; 0 Absent: 0 Abstain.

Adjourned at 9:38p

DRAFT

Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission WORK PLAN – 2021

Mission Statement

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission serves as the public oversight group for Berkeley’s Measure GG and Measure FF funds, 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 measures, recommending the appropriate annual increase to the tax rate, and recommending new programs and positions requiring Measure GG and Measure FF 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 Commissions.

Summary of 2021 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, evacuation planning, veg. mgmt., structure hardening and other topics to improve wildfire safety	Fire prevention and pre-planning to save lives, reduce economic loss and mitigate spread through fuel management.
2	Improve community resilience throughout Berkeley with a whole community approach	Community members’ time (volunteer), Commissioner time, and staff time.	Organize and participate in a working group for community based disaster response	Recommendations to City Council to improve community resilience throughout Berkeley. May include Measure GF/FF fund expenditures.	Improvement in community preparedness and communications, especially in previously underserved communities & neighborhoods
3	Ensure that Measure GG and Measure FF Funds are spent appropriately	Commissioner time, staff time	Measure GG and FF spending report is reviewed by the Commission every quarter	Recommendations to City Council to ensure funds are spent in accordance with the measures.	Fire stations remain open & preparedness and emergency response is improved by using Measure

					GG and FF funds as intended.
4	Help other city entities incorporate a disaster and fire safety perspective into decisions	Commissioner time, staff 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.
- 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 or community groups run in 2021.
- 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 – HOUSING DENSITY, ACCESS & EGRESS ON NARROW STREETS

- Create a Working Group or Subcommittee to focus on questions related to access & egress on narrow streets, including housing density, ADU construction, parking restrictions, home occupation rules, and any other related topics.
- 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
- Review and provide feedback on parking plans, including changes in rules for on-street and off-street marking
- Review and provide feedback on ordinances relevant to increasing population density in the hills, including but not limited to rules regarding ADU construction

- A member of the Commission will review agendas for other Commissions such as the Planning and Public Works Commission meetings and City Council meetings where parking changes, housing density changes or other changes that will impact fire and evacuation safety are discussed.

REDUCE VEGETATION AND FIRE HARDEN¹ 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 an 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 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.

Goals include:

- Support the City’s community outreach measures to improve vegetation management and slow the spread of a WUI fire in the hills.
- Ensure that vegetation management is compliant with sustainable best practices, including local composting.
- 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.

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, ADU rules, vegetation management and any 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

¹ To fire harden a property is to take steps that make the home and property more fire-resistant.

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. Reduce as much as is feasible, economic losses to property owners.

2. 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, training and communication, 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.

COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing disaster that impacts every person and institution in the City. It has exposed gaps and inequities in city services and all aspects of our social system including healthcare, education, food systems, housing and more.

Commission member(s) will stay apprised of City activities as well as community-based activities in response to this pandemic and, if appropriate, provide recommendations to Council. The Commission will make thoughtful, science-based recommendations to reduce suffering and protect and preserve life, health, property, and City funds.

- Understand and hear from the communities that are most impacted by COVID-19, to compile case studies of the community lifelines (store closure, transit, etc.) impacts for Council, if appropriate. Report on community members who are working to support each other through this crisis and make recommendations on possible coordination and support.
- Recognize that forms of support that require internet access, bodily ability, driving a car, having existing healthcare, or other forms of privilege can reinforce existing inequities. Commission will integrate a lens of equity into any COVID-19 related recommendations.
- Recognize that strengthening the City's resilience in the face of COVID-19 and similar future disasters will take many forms that may not look like the professional, top-down based approach that has been followed in the past.

Community Based Disaster Response

Commission member(s) will continue 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.
- explore options to streamline and reducing the cost of permits for Seismic Shutoff Valves and other disaster preparedness upgrades

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

- Berkeley Ready staff presentation(s)
- Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network (BDPNN)
- Berkeley Mutual Aid (BMA)
- Berkeley Path Wanderers
- Others as appropriate

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. Develop recommendations to fund or otherwise support activities of Berkeley Disaster Prep Neighborhood Network, Path Wanderers, Berkeley Mutual Aid, or other community groups.

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 AND MEASURE FF FUNDS ARE SPENT APPROPRIATELY

Resources

Commissioners' time and staff time to generate financial reports and present them to the Commission every quarter.

Program Activities

- Commission will review and provide input on Measure GG and Measure FF expenditure plans as early as possible in the budgeting process, and engage collaboratively with City staff to ensure that these funds are spent in accordance with voter intentions.
- Commission will make recommendations on appropriate allocations for programs and positions requiring Measure GG and Measure FF funding.

- Staff to generate a Measure GG and Measure FF spending report every quarter, or more often if needed
- Commission to provide recommendation on optional tax percentage increase each year
- Member(s) of the Commission will engage with the Re-Imagining Safety process by participating in or observing task force meetings or other related events, so that the Commission can stay apprised of any budgeting changes that result from Re-Imagining Safety, and the potential for available funds to be applied to dispatch upgrades or any other Measure GG or Measure FF-funded programs.

Output(s)

The Commission will create recommendations to Council if needed to ensure that Measure GG and FF 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 goals of Measures GG and FF are maintained: keeping all fire stations in the city open 24-7, improving community resilience through programs such as Berkeley Ready, adequately training firefighters and paramedics, maintaining and replacing necessary equipment and facilities, planning and preparing for wildfires, and upgrading and modernizing the City’s 9-1-1 dispatch system.

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 requiring gas shut-off valves
 - Planning Commission request for feedback on ADU Emergency Ordinance
- Provide input into Council decisions when decisions will affect disaster resilience or fire safety in Berkeley

Recommendations may also be generated in absence of a referral, when the Commission determines that input into Council decisions is necessary to serve Berkeley’s resilience in disaster and fire safety.

Output(s)

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

Outcomes

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



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

DRAFT Recommendation on Measure FF spending. Submitted by Gradiva Couzin 2/24/2021

CALENDAR –Action or Consent
(Meeting Date – mm, dd, yyyy)

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: Recommendation to Use Measure FF Funds as Intended by Voters for Firefighting, Emergency Medical Response, 9-1-1 Communications Services, Hazard Mitigation, and Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness; to Not Reduce General Fund Allocations Towards Fire Services; and to Support Effective Commission Oversight

RECOMMENDATION

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) supports revenue generated by the voter-approved *Fire, Emergency Services and Wildfire Prevention Tax* (Measure FF) going towards services described in the Fire Department's 5-year implementation plan, including:

- Wildfire Prevention and Response
- Training and Development
- EMS Operations
- Dispatch

The Commission has reviewed and provided input on expenditure plans described by the Fire Department and is engaged in the process of providing input and oversight prior to the budget being finalized. As these projects advance and line-item budgets continue to be developed in more detail, the Commission expects to follow up with more specific recommendations on funding allocations.

In order to provide effective oversight of Measure FF spending as resolved by City Council, the Commission needs to have the tools and information necessary to do so. This includes:

1. Thorough and detailed information about spending plans, including detailed line items and staffing numbers, before budgets are finalized and locked in place.
2. An accounting system that will clearly designate spending from the fund, including job codes that are specific to Measure FF, so that the Commission can easily determine staff time spent on Measure FF-funded activities.

Additionally, in allocating funds towards these critical safety improvements, it is imperative that the City ensures that Measure FF funds are used to supplement, rather than replace, general funding of Berkeley Fire Department costs.

When the City's current fiscal emergency ends, the General Funds allocation to the Fire Department must be increased back to pre-COVID levels, rather than relying on Measure FF funds to fill the gap permanently. Post-crisis, the City must not decrease General Fund spending on Fire Department services while covering the difference using Measure FF funds.

Lastly, several areas of proposed Measure FF expenditures relate closely to the City's Re-Imagining Public Safety effort, including 911 dispatch and related emergency services and the Safe Passages initiative. Council should ensure that all of these related efforts are coordinated to ensure that our public safety dollars are being spent as efficiently and effectively as possible to facilitate maximum progress on all of the City's goals. To this end, the Commission recommends that the DFSC have the opportunity to provide input into the Re-Imagining Public Safety project where it relates to Measure FF-funded programs.

As the body that is charged with oversight of Measure FF spending, the DFSC will continue to work collaboratively with City staff to review and provide input on Measure FF spending plans, to monitor both budget planning and actual spending, and to object to any allocation or spending we believe is improper.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Following this recommendation will allow Measure FF funds to be fully used to accomplish the safety goals described in the voter guide, while having no impact on General Funds.

If the City had an expectation that a temporary fiscal-emergency reduction in General Fund allocation to the Fire Department could be made permanent once Measure FF funding is available, then the fiscal impact of this recommendation is to eliminate that expectation.

By honoring the voters' intent that this special funding be fully used towards the services described in the 2020 Voter Guide, following this recommendation can maintain or increase the public trust in future similar tax measures, ultimately leading to more voter support for future tax measures.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Measure FF is expected to generate approximately \$8.5 Million in yearly revenue. The City is currently in the process of planning how to spend this money.

The DFSC has reviewed and provided input into the Fire Department's 5-year Measure FF expenditures plan, and the Commission believes that the Fire Department's planned Measure FF spending is broadly consistent with the intentions of Berkeley's voters. The Commission looks forward to continued engagement with staff on funding plans.

If funds are allocated and spent according to the ballot measure, it will accomplish improvements in several DFSC priorities, including but not limited to the following:

DRAFT Recommendation on Measure FF spending. Submitted by Gradiva
Couzin 2/24/2021

- More inspectors to provide increased inspections in the Fire Zones, reducing fire fuel such as dry, overgrown brush and dead timber. This will reduce fire ignitions, slow the spread of any fires that do ignite, and help keep pathways clear for emergency access and egress.
- Increased vegetation management activities, including funding an innovative program for youth jobs that is also a recruitment tool so that more of Berkeley’s firefighters can be recruited from among Berkeley’s youth.
- Installation and management of a citywide outdoor warning system that will provide reliable, universal emergency warnings and will reach all members of the community without relying on inconsistent and inequitable alerting systems.
- Improved public education related to wildfire evacuations, including evacuation drills that provide an opportunity for both community members and staff to practice and improve the evacuation process.
- Improved evacuation routes, with dedicated staff time to manage the Safe Passages program, to evaluate and document the problem of emergency access and egress in the City’s Fire Zones and lead an interdepartmental program in addressing this problem through parking restrictions, increased enforcement, signage, and public education.
- Better planning and decision-making, with staff who can give focused attention to analysis, planning, policy, and protocols; can give the necessary time to researching options to make informed and data-driven decisions; and can interface more effectively with the public – including the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission - in both communications and collaborative planning.

Additional items not listed above include improvements to the 9-1-1 dispatch system, training facility improvements, and funding of new ambulances and technicians. The Fire Department’s current five-year funding plan as described to the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission shows the following estimated allocations in each area:

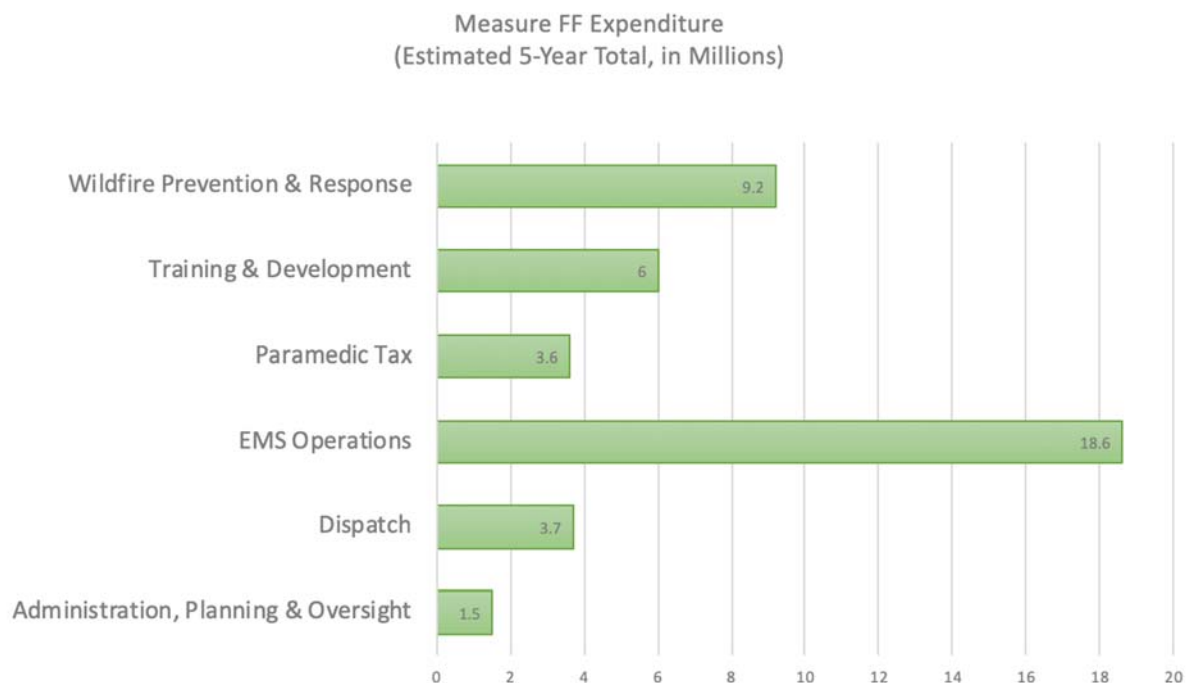


Chart: Measure FF Expenditure, Estimated 5-Year Totals Based on Berkeley Fire Department Presentation to DFSC 1/27/2021

BACKGROUND

On September 25, 2019 and October 23, 2019, The DFSC discussed a possible special assessment for wildfire prevention. Discussions focused on determining what the 1990s-era special assessment in the Berkeley Hills had been, what it had funded, and what funding would be needed today for improved vegetation management inspections in the City's Fire Zones. The topic was also on the DFSC agenda on February 26, 2020, but was tabled.

On June 16, 2020, City Council adopted an ordinance declaring a Fiscal Emergency due to the significant loss of revenue attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On July 6, 2020 The DFSC discussed the Measure FF ballot measure at a Special Session and members of the Commission provided input to Fire Department staff.

On July 14, 2020 City Council adopted an Omnibus Package including several items in the Re-Imagining Public Safety effort that may overlap with the scope of Measure FF budget items and programs. The Measure FF ballot measure language was drafted prior to this package's adoption.

On September 22, 2020 Berkeley City Council passed a resolution Designating the DFSC as the Citizens' Oversight Committee for Expenditure of the Proceeds of the Fire, Emergency Services and Wildfire Prevention Tax (Measure FF)

In the 9/22/20 resolution, Council stated: "*Citizen input and oversight are crucial for transparency and accountability*" and "*For this purpose, in addition to its other powers, the Commission may: 1) request detailed expenditure plans for tax proceeds annually, which shall be provided to it as early in the budget process as feasible; 2) make recommendations to the City Manager and the City Council as to the rate at which the tax should be set and how any tax proceeds should be spent; and 3) obtain a report on actual expenditures.*"

On November 3, 2020, Berkeley voters approved Measure FF, by a vote of 74.2% "Yes" vs. 25.8% "No."

The measure authorized a special parcel tax of \$0.1047 per square foot of improvements (i.e., buildings or structures erected or affixed to the land) for each parcel of real property in the City of Berkeley. This tax is estimated to generate \$8.5 million per year.

An impartial analysis by the City Attorney at that time read in part:

"The tax is estimated to generate \$8.5 million annually. The proceeds shall be placed in a special fund to be used only for the following:

- Local firefighter and emergency medical response including hiring and training personnel and upgrading safety equipment and facilities.*
- Upgrading and modernizing the 9-1-1 dispatch system to implement and maintain a system to provide emergency medical dispatching.*

- *Wildfire prevention and preparedness activities including, but not limited to, vegetation management, hazard mitigation, public education, evacuation planning, and an emergency alert system.*

On January 27, 2020 The DFSC received a presentation, “*Department Redesign – Measure FF Implementation Plan*,” from Fire Department staff on a five-year plan for Measure FF expenditures. Individual members of the Commission provided follow up questions and input to Fire Department staff in the weeks following.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There is no direct environmental impact of this recommendation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The DFSC is enthusiastic about the potential for Measure FF funding to accomplish important and urgent improvements to public safety, as intended by voters. The funding can pay for numerous actions that have been recommended and supported by the DFSC over the years.

However, if the City’s General Funding to the Fire Department is reduced in the coming years, this may have the effect of draining away funding and dedicated staff time from these important safety improvements.

Measure GG was a similar but smaller tax, approved by Berkeley voters in 2008. On August 1, 2018, the DFSC sent a memo to City Council objecting to the City using Measure GG funds to replace, rather than augment, general funding of Berkeley Fire Department overtime costs. See Attachment 1. It is because of this issue with Measure GG expenditures that the DFSC now makes this recommendation to avoid the same problem with Measure FF.

Additionally, effective Commission input and oversight throughout the budget planning process are necessary to ensure that Measure FF funds are put towards safety improvements as intended by voters. The Commission values the opportunity to provide input into budget decisions prior to the budget being finalized each year, as is required by Council’s 9/22/20 resolution.

Because a large portion of the Fire Department’s planned Measure FF expenditures are for staff time to advance crucial safety efforts, the Commission is also seeking the ability to track what staff time and activities are being charged to Measure FF.

Lastly, the City’s Re-Imagining Public Safety effort is closely tied to several projects within the scope of Measure FF spending; it is important that the City coordinate the planning for these related activities, as well as other related activities in various City various departments. The omnibus package adopted by City Council includes the following items that should be coordinated with Measure FF budget items and programs as indicated:

- *Analyzing and developing a pilot program to re-assign non-criminal police service calls to a Specialized Care Unit.* The Specialized Care Unit may relate to new basic ambulance services being proposed within Measure FF expenditures.

- *Creating plans and protocols for calls for service to be routed and assigned to alternative preferred responding entities and consider placing dispatch in the Fire Department or elsewhere outside the Police Department.* The proposed Measure FF expenditure plan includes improvements to the Fire Department's 9-1-1 dispatch system and dispatch training facility improvements.
- *Pursuing the creation of a Berkeley Department of Transportation ("BerkDoT") to ensure a racial justice lens in traffic enforcement and the development of transportation policy, programs and infrastructure, and identify and implement approaches to reduce and/or eliminate the practice of pretextual stops based on minor traffic violations.* The proposed Measure FF expenditure plan may not include budget for increased parking enforcement needed to realize the City's goals for emergency evacuation under the Safe Passages program. The City should consider whether BerkDoT should address this need.

The Commission would like to have the opportunity to give input to Re-Imagining Public Safety plans where they relate to Measure FF-funded programs; we expect that a member of the DFSC will participate and follow the progress of the Re-Imagining Public Safety effort and the Commission will develop future recommendations on this topic.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. [OR] Refer to the budget process.

Note: If the City Manager does not (a) concur, (b) takes any other position, or (c) refer to the budget process, a council action report must be prepared. Indicate under the CITY MANAGER heading, "See companion report." Any time a companion report is submitted, both the commission report AND the companion report are Action reports.

CONTACT PERSON


[Name], [Title], [Department]

Attachments:

1. Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Recommendation, 8/1/2018: *Objection to Use of Measure GG Funds to Replace, Rather Than Augment, General Funding of Berkeley Fire Department*



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:

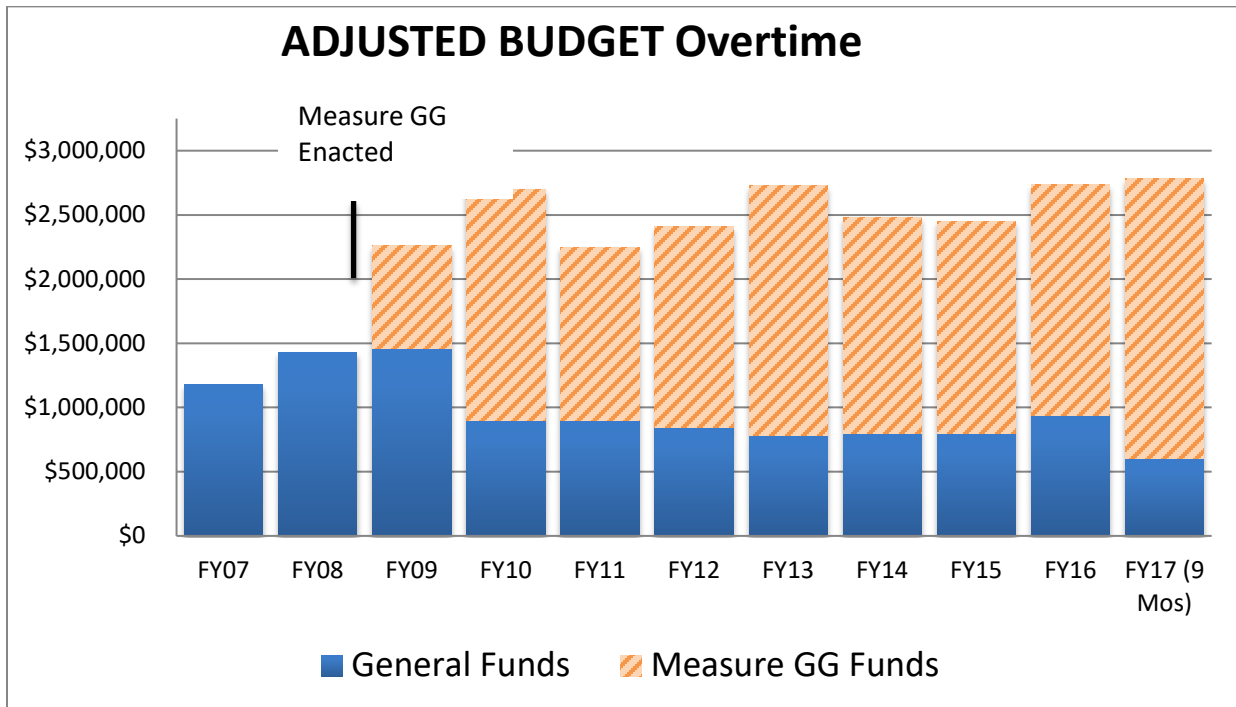


Figure 1: Berkeley Fire Department Overtime – Adjusted Budget
 Data from City of Berkeley’s FUND\$ system

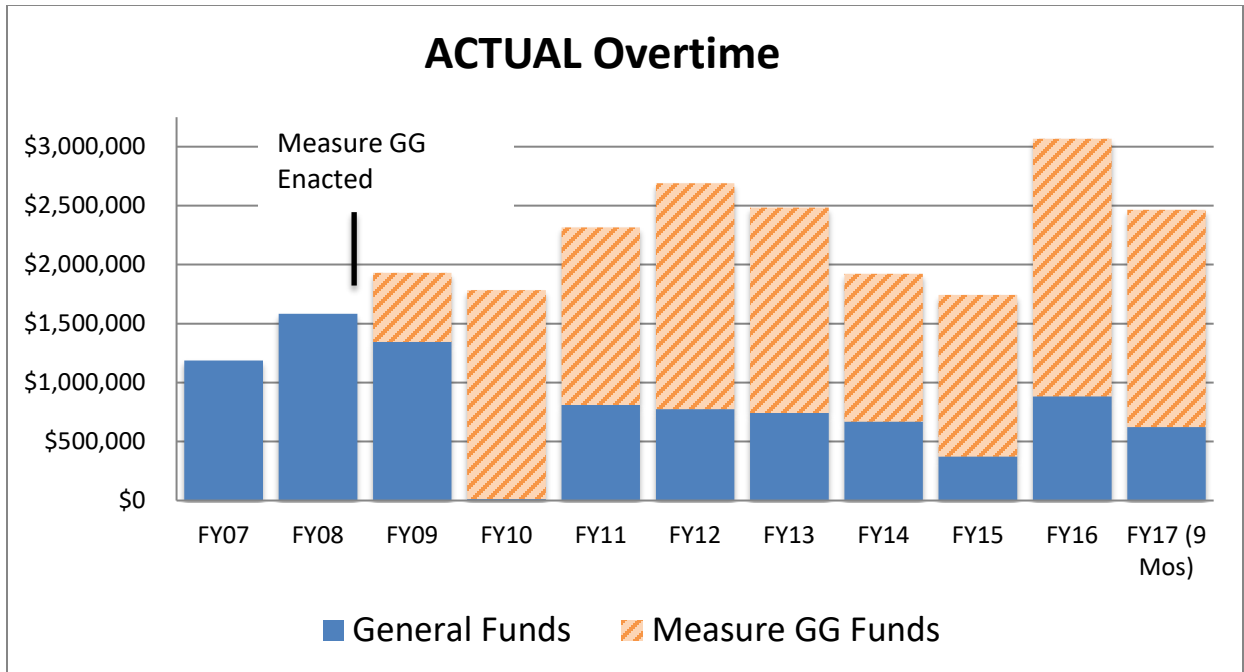
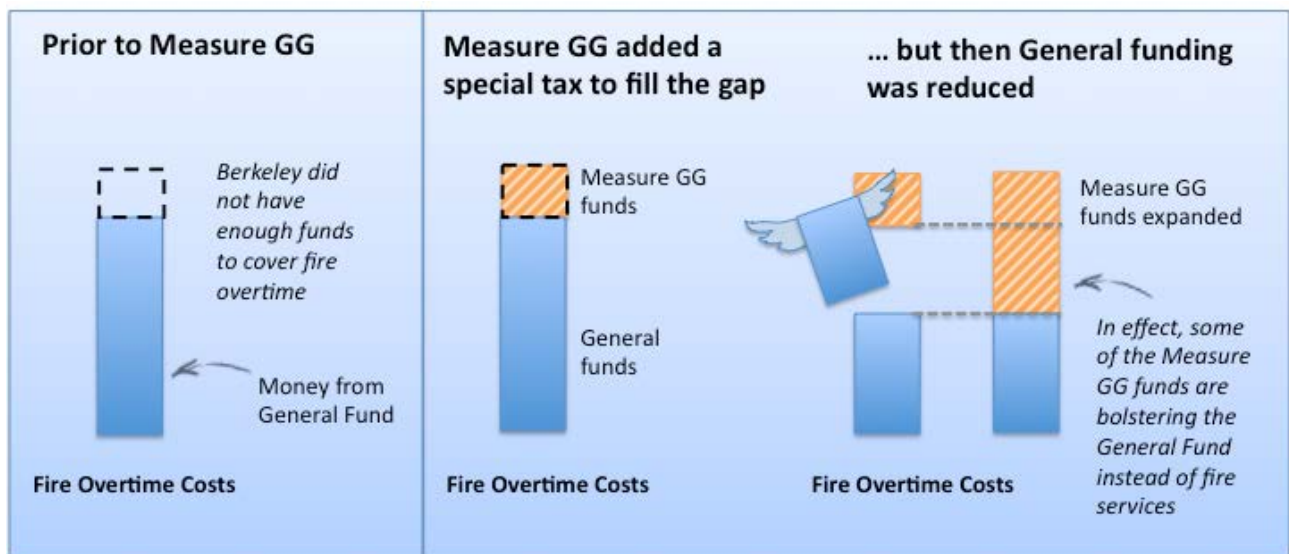


Figure 2: Berkeley Fire Department Overtime – Actual Overtime
 Data from City of Berkeley's FUND\$ system

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

Vision 2050

Sustainable & Resilient Infrastructure for Berkeley

Input on Draft Implementation Plan

Liam Garland, Public Works Director

Ray Yep, Program Manager

Margo Schueler, Co-Program Manager



Voter Approval of Measure R

November 2018:

Shall the measure, advising the Mayor to engage citizens and experts in the development of Vision 2050, a 30-year plan to identify and guide implementation of climate-smart, technologically-advanced, integrated and efficient infrastructure to support a safe, vibrant and resilient future for Berkeley, be adopted?

85% of voters approve!



What is Vision 2050?

- Mayor's initiative to provide climate-smart, technically advanced and efficient infrastructure for a better Berkeley
- Builds on current planning, Measure M, Measure T1, etc.
- Considers core values of **equity, public health & safety, strong local economy** and **resiliency & sustainability**
- Approved by Council in Sept. 2020



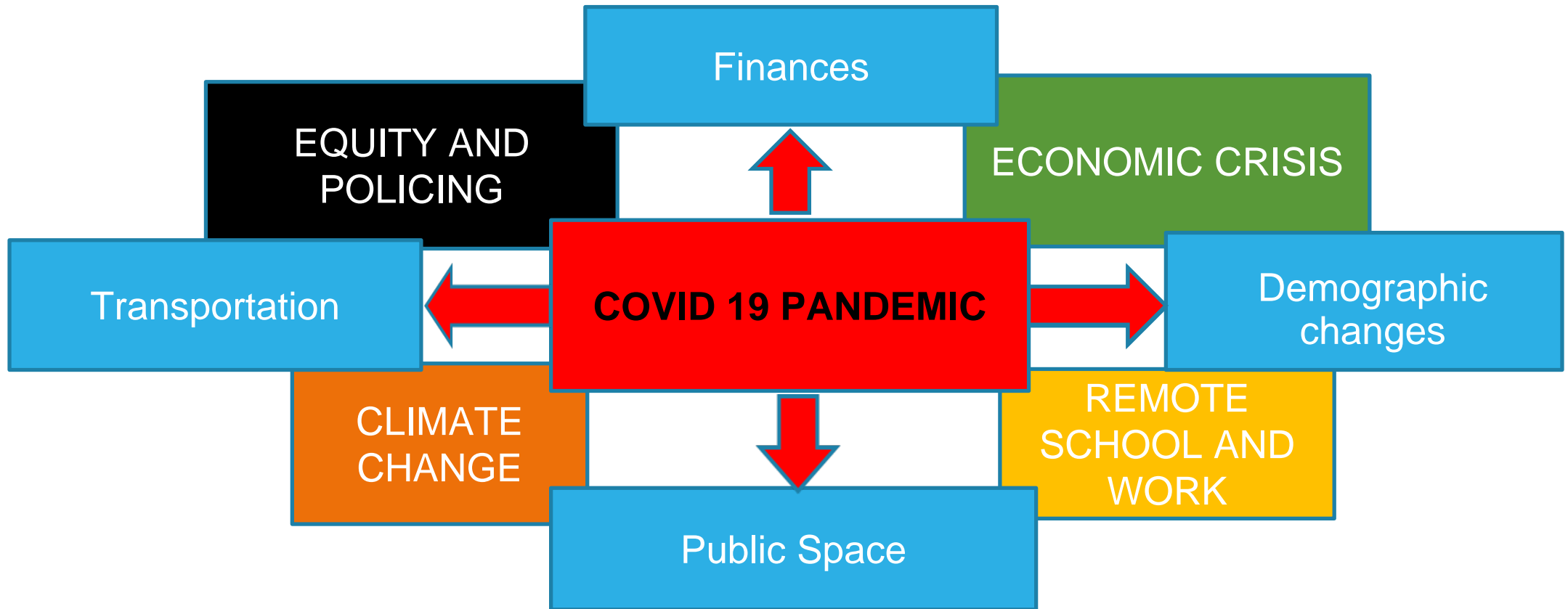
Berkeley's Complex Infrastructure



Image: Michelle Hook

- Facilities above, on and below ground (public right-of-way)
- Used by bicyclists, pedestrians, vehicles, transit, seniors, people with disabilities, etc.
- Many facilities built 75+ years ago
- Sea level (and groundwater) rise
- Resiliency/wildfires/smoke

Context Today



PRINCIPLES, STRATEGIES, AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

PRINCIPLE ONE

SUPPORT VIBRANT AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Infrastructure shall take equity into account and improve the quality of life of all Berkeley residents, including having green open spaces, safe modes of mobility, and being prepared for fires and earthquakes.

PRINCIPLE TWO

HAVE EFFICIENT, INSPIRED AND WELL MAINTAINED INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure shall be long lasting, use advanced technologies, and be maintained to provide efficient service.

PRINCIPLE THREE

FACILITATE A GREEN BERKELEY AND CONTRIBUTE TO SAVING OUR PLANET

Infrastructure shall accelerate the transition to carbon neutrality and include electrification, develop natural streetscapes using green infrastructure, and prioritize human-powered and public transportation.



STRATEGY ONE: Use Integrated and Balanced Planning

A: Use multi-criteria decision-making

B: Use adaptive planning

C: Prepare and implement a Dig Once policy

STRATEGY TWO: Manage Infrastructure from Cradle to Grave

A: Institute structured master planning

B: Develop an Asset Management Program

STRATEGY THREE: Adopt Sustainable and Safe Technologies

A: Accelerate the transition to clean energy and electrification

B: Implement Complete Streets to provide sustainable and healthy transportation

C: Develop natural streetscapes that provide ecosystem services

D: Use sensors, data, and advanced technologies

E: Prepare a wildfire mitigation and safety plan

STRATEGY FOUR: Invest in Our Future

A: Take advantage of a strong financial position to address infrastructure needs and commit to reducing large unfunded infrastructure liability by doubling capital expenditures

STRATEGY FIVE: Prepare the City's Organization to Implement a Major Capital Program

A: Develop an organization that is integrated and has capacity to deliver

B: Prepare a program approach with management tools

C: Provide independent oversight and reporting



Draft Implementation Plan

Who? Liam, Ray, Margo, Gordon, Andrew B, Tano T, Scott F, Billi R

What? Planning to implement the Vision 2050 framework in 5 years:

- Phase 1 – *Short-term, input to FY 21-22 budget*
- Phase 2 – *Mid-term, actions in years 2021 & 2022*
- Phase 3 – *5-year implementation of framework*

What's tonight about? INFORMATION and INPUT!



Phase 1 – Short-Term

- Task 1 – Ensure we stay on track with current capital commitments
- **Task 2 -- Prepare an implementation plan and seek input from Commissions and Vision 2050 Steering Committee.**
- Task 3 – CC workshop on 3/16 re: CIP/Vision 2050
- Task 4 -- Evaluate the need for budget requests to implement Vision 2050.



Phase 2 – Mid-Term

Task 1 – Boost master planning

Task 2 – Expand capacity to implement sustainable and resilient infrastructure

Task 3 – Adopt sustainable and safe technologies

Task 4 – Double Capital Investment/November 2022 infrastructure-focused revenue measure



Phase 3 – 5-Year Implementation

Here are only a few of lots more questions....

- How can we ensure that complete streets projects include storm, sewer, and greenscape?
- How to implement a life cycle Asset Management Program?
- How do we collaborate with UC Berkeley and LBNL?
- Can we define debt financing for long-term capital improvements and General Fund financing for on-going maintenance work?
- Is there a big, signature Vision 2050 project out there?



In Conclusion

- Input on Draft Implementation Plan
 - Does the timing/sequencing seem right?
 - What's missing?
 - Is it the right time to consider a November 2022 infrastructure-focused revenue measure?
 - Assign Commission liaison?

Link to Vision 2050:

https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/09_Sep/City_Council_09-29-2020_-_Special_Meeting_Agenda.aspx

Input/Questions:

Liam Garland, lgarland@cityofberkeley.info

Thank you!



VISION 2050 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



Prepared by:
Liam Garland, Public Works Director
and the Vision 2050 Implementation Team

Draft - February 24, 2021

VISION 2050 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BERKELEY

HISTORY OF VISION 2050

Berkeley's streets, storm drains, sewers, and water lines date to the early decades of the 20th century. Numerous civic facilities were built during the Great Depression to serve this fast-growing population, including Aquatic Park, the Rose Garden, Civic Center, and the Community Theater on the Berkeley High campus. Critical systems that we depend on every day are simply wearing out. Recent budgets were inadequate for infrastructure capital and maintenance needs, let alone modernizing them. Aging infrastructure is not only costly to maintain but it doesn't meet current or future requirements. This leaves the community vulnerable to unplanned failure and service interruptions. For residents, workers, and businesses trying to go about their daily lives, this can translate to unsafe conditions, unexpected costs, and inequity between neighborhoods.

Now, as we begin to grapple with Berkeley's difficult infrastructure situation, new challenges are emerging. The local impacts of global climate change are a major threat to our aging infrastructure. Extreme storm events, wildfires, heatwaves, drought, and sea level rise will challenge streets, pipes, and open spaces that were designed for a more benign environment. And all of this will be happening as we wait and prepare for the next major earthquake. If our city is to survive and thrive, we must confront this challenge.

The Vision 2050 initiative was announced by Mayor Arreguin at his 2017 State of the City address. A residents' task force of over 40 members was formed and the group worked for 18 months to prepare a framework to modernize Berkeley's infrastructure. Their report, "Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure, Creating a Better Future for Berkeley" was approved by City Council in September 2020. In addition, Berkeley voters approved Measure R in November 2018. The measure asked: "Shall the measure, advising the Mayor to engage citizens and experts in the development of Vision 2050, a 30-year plan to identify and guide implementation of climate-smart, technologically-advanced, integrated and efficient infrastructure to support a safe, vibrant and resilient future for Berkeley, be adopted?" The response was a resounding yes.



OBJECTIVE OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Vision 2050 report is a framework on how the City can move forward to have integrated solutions for sustainable and resilient infrastructure. The framework is defined as the guiding principles and strategy recommendations in the Vision 2050 report. The objective of this implementation plan is to transition the framework into reality. Many of the issues are complex and we are planning to phase in the recommendations over 5 years. This implementation plan will target a ballot measure in November 2022, pending Council approval, to begin to turn Vision 2050 into reality.

Very important to the Vision 2050 initiative is to change the way we approach our infrastructure. Below, we identify the four core values, three principles, and five strategies for infrastructure development.

CORE VALUES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



EQUITY
The benefits of improved infrastructure must be distributed equitably throughout the entire community. Equity should mean that disadvantaged citizens with more pressing needs experience benefits sooner than others and receive benefits particularly tailored to their unique needs.



STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY
A strong local economy provides resources to Berkeley citizens and creates an opportunity to build local skills and employment opportunities that support the city's diverse community.




PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
This core value considers safe and convenient access to greenspaces, public services, clean air, and social support networks, all of which can have a big impact on people's emotional and physical health.



RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY
Resiliency requires systems and structures that are able to recover quickly from temporary and, sometimes, catastrophic events. Sustainability refers to the ability to minimize our impacts on the environment while still providing core services.

IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK IN 5 YEARS

PRINCIPLES, STRATEGIES, AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

<p>PRINCIPLE ONE SUPPORT VIBRANT AND SAFE COMMUNITIES</p> <p>Infrastructure shall take equity into account and improve the quality of life of all Berkeley residents, including having green open spaces, safe modes of mobility, and being prepared for fires and earthquakes.</p>		STRATEGY ONE: Use Integrated and Balanced Planning
A: Use multi-criteria decision-making		
B: Use adaptive planning		
<p>PRINCIPLE TWO HAVE EFFICIENT, INSPIRED AND WELL MAINTAINED INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Infrastructure shall be long lasting, use advanced technologies, and be maintained to provide efficient service.</p>	STRATEGY TWO: Manage Infrastructure from Cradle to Grave	
A: Institute structured master planning		
B: Develop an Asset Management Program		
<p>PRINCIPLE THREE FACILITATE A GREEN BERKELEY AND CONTRIBUTE TO SAVING OUR PLANET</p> <p>Infrastructure shall accelerate the transition to carbon neutrality and include electrification, develop natural streetscapes using green infrastructure, and prioritize human-powered and public transportation.</p>	STRATEGY THREE: Adopt Sustainable and Safe Technologies	
A: Accelerate the transition to clean energy and electrification		
B: Implement Complete Streets to provide sustainable and healthy transportation		
C: Develop natural streetscapes that provide ecosystem services		
D: Use sensors, data, and advanced technologies		
E: Prepare a wildfire mitigation and safety plan		
STRATEGY FOUR: Invest in Our Future		
A: Take advantage of a strong financial position to address infrastructure needs and commit to reducing large unfunded infrastructure liability by doubling capital expenditures		
STRATEGY FIVE: Prepare the City's Organization to Implement a Major Capital Program		
A: Develop an organization that is integrated and has capacity to deliver		
B: Prepare a program approach with management tools		
C: Provide independent oversight and reporting		

We are planning to implement the Vision 2050 framework recommendations over 5 years. This is organized into three phases, as follows.

- **Phase 1** – Short-term focus on input to FY 2021-2022 budget
- **Phase 2** – Mid-term focus on the 1st two years of the 5-year implementation plan
- **Phase 3** – 5-year implementation of the Vision 2050 framework

Phase 1 – Short-term focus

With the City Manager’s authorization in December 2020 to implement Vision 2050, it is timely to consider the short-term activities leading to mid-2021. The following work tasks take important steps forward on each of the five strategies, help incorporate Vision 2050 into the City’s work, and set the stage for implementing Vision 2050 projects in later years:

Task 1 -- Ensure staff’s delivery of current infrastructure improvements. An important short-term focus is to deliver on our current infrastructure-related improvements. Much progress is being made with the construction of infrastructure improvements committed to in the FY2019-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Measure T1 Phases 1 and 2, and other programs. Doing so is no small accomplishment amidst the City’s pandemic response, 15%+ staff vacancies in the two main capital focused departments, and existing high workload. As the CIP and T1 are implemented, sustainable and resilient elements are incorporated. Projects underway are promoting sustainability and resilience by renovating building with solar, eliminating gas connections, and improving seismic protection. Other projects are adding green infrastructure; making streets complete for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users; and new sidewalk repair methods are reducing our greenhouse gas footprint and expanding access and safety for those with mobility impairments.

Task 2 – Convene the Implementation Team

Vision 2050 has transitioned from being the Mayor’s initiative to implementation by City departments. City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley has designated the Public Works Department to lead the implementation of Vision 2050. Liam Garland, Public Works Director, is the overall person in charge. The following describes the participants:

- Ray Yep – Program manager
- Margo Schueler – Co-manager and needs assessment lead
- Gordon Wozniak – Funding assessment lead
- Andrew Brozyna – Program delivery assessment leads
- Tano Trachtenberg – Community engagement assessment lead
- Scott Ferris – Parks, Waterfront and Measure T1 input
- Billi Romain – Sustainability and resiliency input

Other members shall be added as the needs develop. The team has met in December and January, and will meet again after seeking input from commissions.

Task 3 -- Prepare a [draft] implementation plan and seek input from various stakeholders. Prepare a plan to implement the Vision 2050 recommendations (this staff report). Ray, Margo, and Liam are presenting the draft implementation plan for input from participating commissions, the Vision 2050 steering committee, and City Council. The Commissions include: Public Works, Parks and Waterfront,

Transportation, Energy, and Disaster and Fire Safety. The Vision 2050 Steering Committee and several task force members are interested in helping with the implementation, including Karen Parolek, Debbie Sanderson, Sachu Constantine, John Elliott, Jim McGrath, Bruce Riordan, Kristina Hill, and others.

Task 3 – Incorporate Vision 2050 into City Council’s capital improvement workshops. The City’s biannually adopted capital improvement program (CIP) is the City’s definitive budget-related statement on public infrastructure. This year’s presentation to City Council in March will also include a summary of the City’s unfunded liabilities, including infrastructure-related liabilities and needs. This will be the first adopted CIP that adopts Vision 2050’s strategies and begins to implement them.

Task 4 – Submit Vision 2050 budget requests. The process to develop Vision 2050 was wholly volunteer led. Implementing Vision 2050 continues with significant volunteer leadership, now in close coordination and collaboration with existing staff. No funding is currently associated with Vision 2050. Vision 2050 budget requests for FY 2021-2022 will advance each of the five strategies.

Task 5 – Strategize to leverage Vision 2050 to take advantage of Federal and State support. Monitor the potential infrastructure funding from the new Federal administration. Apply relevant criteria for Berkeley’s planning.

Phase 2 – Mid-term focus

The mid-term focus is for work tasks from July 2021 through December 2022. These tasks seek to build momentum in implementing the Vision 2050 strategies, while also being realistic about the City’s significant existing commitments. This phase boosts our master plans, increases staff capacity, and develops a fundable plan for accelerating Vision 2050’s implementation through a November 2022 revenue measure focused on infrastructure.

Task 1 -- Boost Master Planning. As identified in the Vision 2020 Report, the City’s current infrastructure planning is contained in over 20 reports dating back at least a dozen years. There are some aspects of our infrastructure that are well planned, such as our sewer collection system. It has both long-term plans, maintenance plans, and a dedicated funding source that is adjustable every five years. Other asset areas either do not have master plans or planning is insufficient.

Master plans will be developed for storm drains and streetlights, both of which have dedicated funding sources, but projects, programs, and long-term vision have not yet been matched to these funding sources. Similarly, a long term master plan will be developed for paving, which has some initial planning and for which a new rehabilitation policy will be considered by City Council.

Task 2 -- Expand capacity to implement sustainable and resilient infrastructure. To expand staff’s ability to develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure, Public Works will gain [Envision](#) certifications, both for selected staff and projects.

Task 3 -- Adopt sustainable and safe technologies. City buildings are now purchasing 100% renewable power supplied by East Bay Community Energy, and that will continue. Renovation of City buildings will include installation of solar, battery storage, and EV charging. Implementation of the 2020 Municipal Fleet Electrification Assessment will continue. New pervious concrete piloted in the 2020 paving plan will be utilized in future paving. More green infrastructure will be installed throughout the City. To further reduce

greenhouse gas emissions, staff are looking at programs and policies to replace natural gas use in buildings, and opportunities for the installation of solar and battery storage at critical facilities to provide clean and renewable energy during grid outages.

The Parks and Waterfront Commission is spearheading a Greening Berkeley initiative. Greening Berkeley's primary means of achieving its goals is to intelligently reduce hardscape, where possible, and its impacts, where necessary, throughout our city, and introduce softscape, soil and/or permeable materials that promote Vision 2050 objectives. This initiative seeks to connect and engage neighbors to ensure the long-term viability and stewardship of projects.

Task 4 –Double Capital Investment to Address Infrastructure Needs. To advance Vision 2050, the implementation plan proposes laying the groundwork for an infrastructure-focused revenue measure in November 2022.

- A. **Community engagement.** The work shall include an active website, community forums, ad hoc committees, community survey and other activities. The community encompasses members from across Berkeley, including representatives from seniors, disabled, faith groups, youth groups, business groups, neighborhood organizations, etc. Input will be sought on infrastructure priorities through a variety of methods and a survey will be conducted to help assess Berkeley's willingness to support an infrastructure-focused revenue measure.
- B. **Needs Assessment.** A needs assessment will compile the latest information on Berkeley's unfunded infrastructure needs. The work will utilize baseline data from the CIP, master plans, condition assessment studies, planning studies and other relevant information. One area of focus is on the infrastructure systems over, on and below ground in the public street right-of-way (ROW). This includes our streets, sidewalks, street lights, bicycle routes, pedestrian needs, utility undergrounding, sewers, storm drains, green infrastructure, community spaces and systems provided by agencies. The needs assessment will also include improvements needed with our parks, watersheds, solid waste transfer and recycling center, buildings and facilities, open spaces, and other needs identified in the CIP. These assessments will also be viewed through the lens of Vision 2050 values: equity, strong local economy, public health, and resilience and sustainability.
- C. **Evaluate funding options.** There are various funding options to consider, and different asset groups will have different funding options. Those options will be evaluated. Consideration shall be given to funding options for capital improvements versus funding on-going maintenance. If Vision 2050 is to be turned into reality, it will require capital projects that move our deteriorated infrastructure back into good condition, and proper maintenance (and funding) to keep infrastructure in that good condition.
- D. **Program delivery assessment.** This task will evaluate the City organization's capability to implement a major capital program. The work shall learn from the efforts of Measure M, Measure T1 and other City capital programs. The work shall also learn from other cities, such as San Francisco and San Diego, who have implemented major capital programs. The work product will be a recommendation on how the City should organize to construct and maintain its infrastructure systems. Consideration should be given to the level of City staffing and the use of consultants.

- E. **Prepare a Program Plan.** The information gathered above will be compiled into a Program Plan. It will plan the construction of infrastructure improvements over a longer time period, describe funding options, a project delivery approach, the community engagement process to date, and possible oversight if a revenue measure will be successful. City Council will consider the Program Plan in advance of an ultimate decision in June 2022 on whether to move forward with a November 2022 revenue measure focused on implementation.

Phase 3 – 5 year implementation plan

Fully implementing the Vision 2050 recommendations will be a transformative process, and there will be surprises and challenges along the way. Our goal is to have the strategies implemented within 5 years, beginning a series of five-year implementation plans that maximize the opportunities, funding synergies, and public involvement opportunities of those future years.

Below are some of the many questions not yet with answers, and commissioners and other stakeholders input is more than welcome.

Use integrated and balanced planning.

- How shall we incorporate the Envision criteria into our planning processes?
- How can we ensure that complete streets projects include storm, sewer and greenscape?
- How can we consider our City owned and controlled infrastructure systems as parts of a larger interacting whole to avoid compartmentalization and missed opportunities for increasing overall value?
- Evaluate ownership structure options for resources we want and would benefit from, but don't necessarily need to own and operate - like micro-grids, electric vehicle charging.
- How can local clean energy production be increased in Berkeley to improve resilience and accelerate the transition to carbon neutrality.

Manage infrastructure from cradle to grave.

- How shall we implement a life cycle Asset Management Program?
- How do we quantify and compare costs, benefits, and risks of distinct project approaches quantified and compared on a lifecycle basis?
- How do we assess and compare the resiliency of each project approach to changing conditions and extreme events evaluated and compared?
- Can we show each project approach significantly improves environmental and social performance of the system and contribute to long-term community sustainability goals?

Adopt sustainable and safe technologies.

- How do we identify and draw on best practices?
- How shall we collaborate with U.C. Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab?

Identify Funding to Invest in our Future.

- Can we define debt financing for long term capital improvements and General Fund financing for on-going maintenance work?
- Can we develop a business case developed for our infrastructure program that identifies efficiencies, manages risk, and aligns broader community goals?

- Can we build a capital investment process to consider adaptability to future change and quantify risks of system failure in the event of foreseeable disasters?
- Does our benefit-cost analysis consider life-cycle costs, including planning, construction, operations, maintenance, replacement, and decommissioning?

Prepare the City's organization to implement a major capital program.

- How can we change our capital budgeting process to prompt thinking outside the box to develop integrated, cross-departmental infrastructure alternatives?
- Should we propose our 5 year plus thinking focus around big, signature projects, perhaps that are regional and/or funded by others?

Chin, Khin

From: Nancy Rader <nraderhome@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:20 PM
To: May, Keith; Chin, Khin
Subject: Quadplex Leg and wildfire zones - please forward ASAP

Importance: High

WARNING: This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.
DO NOT CLICK ON links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Keith and Khin,

Given that this issue is coming up tomorrow morning, I'm hoping that one of you can forward this note to the rest of the DFSC this afternoon or first thing in the morning. Thanks – and please let me know if I should be making this request to one or the other of you (or neither); I'm still learning the ropes!

Nancy

From: Nancy Rader <nraderhome@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Idroste@cityofberkeley.info
Subject: Quadplex Leg and wildfire zones

Hello Council Member Droste,

As a newly appointed member of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (but not speaking for the Commission), I wanted to reach out to flag a concern with your proposed Quadplex legislation that would end the ban and require only ministerial permits for quadplexes, which I personally strongly support.

I wanted to suggest a small, but important, change: with reference to the provision of the draft resolution that enables Council to take into account public safety in areas within CalFire's Very High Hazard Severity Zones, I'd like to request that you consider referencing areas "within the City of Berkeley's Fire Zones" rather than CalFire's, as Berkeley's are more expansive and cover many narrow streets that will be used during wildfire evacuations as part of Berkeley's Safe Passages initiative.

In case I am not able to speak during public comment tomorrow, I wanted to pass this suggestion along by email.

Thank you for your consideration,
Nancy

Nancy Rader
1198 Keith Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94708
(510) 845-5359 home
(510) 919-6358 cell

To: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
From: Gradiva Couzin
Subject: Future agenda items

2/24/2021

Dear fellow commissioners,

With this being my last session of the DFSC as Chair, I want to call out some items that I would like to recommend the future Chair include on upcoming agendas:

- (1) **Proposed for the March agenda:** Presentation from the Berkeley Path Wanderers. This group does fantastic work to maintain, clear, improve, and map paths in the city, many of which are potential on-foot evacuation routes from the hills. Since 2019 the group has offered to give the DFSC a short presentation on the paths: how they came about, how come many were never built even though the land is set aside for them, mapping efforts, what their volunteers do, and their collaboration with Public Works/ Parks/ BFD.

- (2) **Proposed for the April agenda:** Presentation from Berkeley Mutual Aid (BMA). This organization has deployed over 500 volunteers on a weekly basis since March 2020 to support higher-risk individuals, mostly seniors, in the COVID crisis. BMA is an example of community-based disaster response. BMA would like to present how its pandemic response fits in with the concept and philosophy behind mutual aid, and the specifics of how BMA began as an immediate response to the pandemic—matching those who need help with those who can offer help, in a buddy system—and how it's evolved, adapted, and continues to respond. BMA has also been involved in a Bay Area-wide coalition of mutual aid groups, and can share how a wide variety of mutual aid groups operate.

I realize our agendas are very full and it can be hard to fit in presentations along with the other work we need to do. I would also suggest extending our meetings to 9:30 rather than ending them at 9:00, so that we have more time to fit in presentations from community groups like these.

Chin, Khin

From: Chin, Khin
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Chin, Khin
Subject: FW: ember-proofing homes as a Measure FF priority

From: Margit Roos-Collins <margit@rooscollins.net>
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 9:32 AM
Subject: ember-proofing homes as a Measure FF priority

Dear Disaster and Fire Safety Commissioners,

I am writing you about a problem that I hadn't even heard of until last fall: the urgent need to screen openings into homes so that wildfire embers are not sucked in to ignite fires from within the buildings. When the Fire Department presented you last Wednesday with its vision of how Measure FF funds should be spent, this issue was not included. I believe that omission is based on two factors: 1) other city departments may be better suited to dealing with this piece of our city's preparedness and 2) we are all in the process of learning how important and remediable this matter is.

These two newspaper articles, published last fall, provide a good general introduction to the issue:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Bay-Area-fire-experts-key-in-on-huge-threat-to-15668541.php#photo-20155968>

<https://www.latimes.com/projects/wildfire-california-fuel-breaks-newsom-paradise/#nt=0000016d-d0cb-d12e-a7fd-d5dfb2650002-liH3promoXSmall-7030col2>

Apparently in Paradise, it wasn't uncommon for people's trees to survive. Their homes were the fuel because embers were sucked inside through unscreened openings.

This UC Extension page outlines what's known about how to reduce fire risk. <https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Building/>

The three top priorities they list are fire-safe roofs (which we get through code enforcement and time), ember-proofing vents, and vegetation management. Vegetation management is being addressed in the Measure FF discussion, rightly. Ember-proofing vents needs to be added.

You might think that people would get ember-proof vents when they get new roofs. We got a new roof this past summer and yes, the new roof vents are properly screened per code. But the gable vent (that one near the peak of a roof on the flat exterior wall) wasn't involved and now it's sitting there, almost three stories up, worrying us. I saw five gable vents within an eight-house walk from home. And they are trouble if not screened, as this insurance industry study discusses: https://ibhs.org/wp-content/uploads/wpmembers/files/Vulnerability-of-Vents-to-Wind-Blown-Embers_IBHS.pdf

The question for you and for city staff should be how best to get this screening done quickly, affordably, safely and effectively (using the right screen mesh size, for example, as explained in the insurance study above). Since, per the L.A. Times article, the windblown embers in these new, hotter fires are driven up to five miles ahead of the flames, it seems like a large wildfire in the wildlands from Tilden eastward, in Diablo wind conditions, could potentially ignite any home in Berkeley even if the fire were contained to the hills. The risk is highest closest to the Tilden border and it makes sense to prioritize home hardening

from east to west, but with the right new codes and owner education program, all of us could reduce the risk to our homes wherever we live.

Here are some thoughts on elements of a good plan:

- 1) Coordinate with any similar efforts by the state and in other East Bay cities. Let's not invent more than we have to. That said, this may be one of those situations where other jurisdictions have also just started to think about it.
- 2) Create online information about how to screen or close vents in ways that effective and are sensitive to the style of the houses. The Chronicle article linked above mentioned a Marin firm that does screening, but that firm's website shows screening that would look jarring on an older home. In the 1980s, Oakland's Planning Department created a book called *Rehab Right* to guide homeowners in how to remodel without damaging the architectural integrity of their homes. We need the very short, several-page version of that sort of effort. A local architectural firm could help.
- 3) Draw upon the knowledge of the city's Vector Control experts. They currently inspect homes for free when there's a vermin issue, and they are superb at finding hidden openings of exactly the sort that allow embers to be sucked in.
- 4) Change the building code so that whenever a house is being re-roofed or scaffolded for painting where there's an existing gable vent, that vent must be screened or blocked. [It's my understanding that sometimes gable vents can interfere with optimal air flow from new roof vents, and if so, blocking the gable vents could be a win-win.]
- 5) Push knowledge of this ember-proofing issue out to every building owner. Include discussion of it when the Fire Department does its Fire Prevention Inspections in the fire zone and in multi-unit buildings.
- 6) Possibly, create a focused training program for handypersons and guide them in getting the proper insurance and bonding to enter homes. Once the openings are located, sealing many of them requires only metal mesh screening, the right scissors to cut it, and a staple gun. Gable vents several stories up may require scaffolding or skillful attic crawlspace approaches and be better for contractors to handle. But single-story homes might be safely ember-proofed by people with a narrow, tailored set of skills. And given that time is of the essence in getting prepared before the next local wildfire, we need access to more people who can help with this.

I would very much like to discuss this issue with any of you who care to contact me. Thank you for considering it.

Margit Roos-Collins