

AGENDA
Disaster Fire and Safety Commission
April 13, 2022
7:00 PM

District 1 – Kim-Mai Cutler	District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet	District 6 – Nancy Rader
District 3 –	District 7 – Tobias 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 Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81595546232> 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 815 9554 6232 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
 - a. Measure FF Report Schedule
 - b. Measure GG Report Schedule
 - c. Department Activities
 - i. Overall Call Metrics
 - ii. Special Reports
 - iii. Commission Actions Status

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of March 23, 2022*

Action Items

3. Designating a Commissioner as a Primary and Alternate member of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Core Group *
4. Recommendation for Measure FF spending in FY 23 & FY 24 - Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program* (Rader)
5. Recommendation for Parking Enforcement Budget* (Rader)

Discussion Items

6. Commission Workplan (Bedolla)
7. Measure FF Budget Discussion
8. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps
 - a. Measure GG Tax Rate Increase

Adjournment

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday March 23, 2022

Present: Jose Luis Bedolla, Shirley Dean, Weldon Bradstreet, Nancy Rader, Tobias Simmons, Kim-Mai Cutler,

Absent: Paul Degenkolb (Excused), Toni Stein

Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May

Public: Attendees 22: Andy Peterson, Edelweiss Chin, Jan Eberstein, Jim Fischer, Marcus von Engel, Nancy Gillette, 15102697022, Benay Dara-Adams, jmcbride, max ventura, Masako Ijuin, Isis Feral, Cynthia Chen, Kathleen Kelly, Richard Norgaard, Holly Singh, 5104829494, Annie Johnson, Michelle W, Annie Johnson,

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

J. Bedolla called meeting to order at 7:03pm

Approval of the Agenda Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Max Ventura, founder of East Bay Pesticide Alert, January of 2005, began working on deforestation and pesticide issues in the hills. Pesticiding happens for up to 10 years after every cut. UC has driven pesticide use and it is a fire hazard. Eucalyptus trees have served as a fire break as in the 1991 fire. We went up against Measure FF and opposition was lost in propaganda. Commissioners should go to eastbaypesticidealert.org, look at the wildfire page.

Kelly Hammargren – how many people are in attendance tonight? 22.

Henry Denero said that eucalyptus are not a fire break species.

1. Fire Department Staff Report

DFSC Staff Report

March 23rd, 2022

1. Measure FF Monthly Report
 - a. Budget Overview – Stacie Clarke/Chief Roman
 - i. Program Review
 1. **Standards of Coverage Analysis** – The Department is undergoing an in-depth analysis of fixed and mobile resources to determine the best deployment model and to ensure the Department is responding effectively and efficiently.
 - Status: The contractor was provided a large amount of data in January of 2022. Preliminary results indicate that Department resources are being worked above the national standard. There is room for improvement on call processing time and that response times are beyond the established national standard. A more in-depth presentation will be provided to the City Council work session on April 19th?
 - Expected Completion: June 2022.
 2. **Project Management and Subject Matter Expert (SME)** – Through this contract, the Department has relied on a team of professionals that have varied background including in project management, information technology, videography, marketing and industry specialists that have specific skills in emergency medical service and training.
 - a. Status: The PMT is has been working to support the Departments NOI for the HMBP grant, helping to develop a recruiting/marketing plan for EMTs and Paramedics and performing a variety of other staff/support work.
 3. **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** – The CWPP is a comprehensive risk analysis that addresses local target hazards and includes a community-based action plan to mitigate threats, promote preparedness activities, and ensure resiliency. It will serve as the foundation and roadmap for the Departments work to prevent wildfire and limit the spread when they ignite.
 - a. Update: The contract is almost complete and the project will commence in April.
 - b. Completion is expected around November 2022
 4. **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** – See chart below.
 5. **Retired Annuitants** – The retired annuitants are largely focused on performing vegetation inspections for properties in fire zone 2 and 3. They are also looking at transitioning the inspection from paper to mobile technology, re-tooling the re-inspection, citation, and violation process. The Department has also expanded its traditional hazardous fire area program to include all properties in fire zones 2 and 3.

- Update: Last month we had some challenges with CalPERS which caused us to temporarily suspend the RA program. This resulted in no new inspections to report. We have resolved those issues and all 14 inspectors are back at work as of March 14th.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic Recruitment – Single Function Job Classifications & Recruitment:

- a. The Division has worked collaboratively with Local 1227 and Human Resources to draft single function EMT and Paramedic Job Classifications which were approved with elation at the December Personnel Board meeting and were approved by the City Council on January 18th, 2022.

Update: The recruitment campaign and on-boarding program is being developed. The Department is working through several remaining administrative processes before it can begin to recruit and hire for these jobs.

Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures.

Update: The planning process has begun with a team comprised of members from the Fire Department, Public Works, and key external experts in fire station and fire training center design. There is a significant meeting scheduled for March 1st where the ball will really get rolling.

Expected Completion: September 2022

Employee Physicals & Human Performance: First responders' suffer higher rates of chronic medical and psychological injury and illness than the general population. These issues are often directly correlated to shift work, traumatic experiences and stress, and exposure to carcinogens. Wellness programs have reduced healthcare and workers compensation costs associated with injuries and illness. Additionally, responders that are healthy (medically and psychiatrically) are more resilient, make better decisions and are more likely to be at work.

Update: After a multi-year solicitation process, two Contractors have been selected that will provide services that include but are not limited to, annual physical examinations, screening for cancer and other chronic diseases associated with the work, one-on-one consultations, managing wellness/fitness initiatives, coordinating awareness and motivational campaigns,

mental and health related training, long-term data collection and analysis, and educational seminars. We will have one full time on site Human Performance Coach that will be likely starting by May of this year.

Dispatch Study: Our goal, per Council direction is to enhance the dispatch center so it can triage calls, divert non-emergency calls (including mental health calls) to appropriate resources like the SCU; and provide emergency medical instructions to callers.

Status: A consultant, Federal Engineering, started work on Phase 1 on January 20th, 2022. Their work will result in a comprehensive plan that we can use to guide the physical (facility) enhancements, adjustments to staffing and training in dispatch over the next 36 months.

Expected Completion of Phase 1: September 2022

6. Recruitments:

a. Shift Fire Inspector Recruitment –These are filled by existing fire department personnel and are used to assist with fire investigations and other inspection related activities in the built environment.

i. Update: Interviews have been completed and six members will begin this three-year assignment on May 1st, 2022.

b. Sworn Fire Inspector Recruitment – Recruitment is on-going.

i. Update: Staff has promoted one non-sworn inspector to a sworn position. Three external offers have been accepted and expected to start the first week of April.

7. **Division of Training Property** – The Department is actively engaged to find a piece of property that will meet the City’s needs for the training and development of its emergency responders and support staff. Due to zoning, the cost of property and the proximity of residential units to most property in Berkeley, this location will likely be outside the City proper. This presents exciting opportunities for regional collaboration with other fire departments and a community college district.

a. Update: Several potential properties have been identified, Phase I environmental reviews have been performed, and staff is working to determine the best option available.

ii. Implementation & Metrics

1. **Outdoor Warning System** – We are diligently working through the permitting process with the City of Berkeley and the vendor. BUSD MOU has been signed by BUSD and is in the final steps with the City of Berkeley before being completely executed.

2. The first five units have been ordered

iii. RFP Updates

b. Program Specific Reports

i. Defensible Space Inspection Updates

Vegetation Management Inspections – Annuitants

2. Measure GG Monthly Report – Stacie Clarke/Chief Roman
 - a. Emergency Services Coordinator Position
 - i. Recruitment is in process and will close on April 4, 2022.
 - b. Budget Overview
 - i. RFP Updates – No new updates.
3. Department Activities
 - a. Grants – The Fire Department has pulled out of the CAL OES grant process. Competing priorities, disqualifying events, costs and disproportionate commitment of staff time needed for grant application and performance make applying for this grant during the current cycle unfeasible. The fire department is committed in continuing the pursuit of grant funding opportunities in the future.

However, we have an opportunity to join the “Fire Risk Reduction Communities List” through the Diablo Fire Safe Council. This will make Berkeley homeowners eligible for vegetation management grants through Hillside Emergency Forum (HEF). HEF has already completed the State environmental reviews and do not have to wait for federal reviews.

4. Safe Passage
 - Update: We have been working with Transportation and Traffic to repaint existing red curbs and replacing “no parking signs” that have faded as well as painting red in front of hydrants.
5. Laguna Beach Update: “Only great things to report using Genasys to facilitate alert and notifications during our evacuations today. We quickly identified the 3 speaker locations in the evacuation zone and were able to send the pre-recorded Evacuation Order alert. Residents, City Council, City Leadership, and the Media all reported positive things on the use of our Outdoor Warning System.”

Emerald Fire

On February 10, 2022 Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Laguna Beach Fire responded for a report of a wildland fire at 4:10 AM. Multiple Companies responded (Within OCFA and local Fire Departments) • Helicopters • Hand Crews • Water Tenders • Command Officers • Additional Requests • LA County Helicopters/Fixed Wing Aircraft • More Firefighters • Incident Management Team.

Evacuation orders included Irvine Cove Residents, Emerald Bay Residents.

Evacuation Warnings were given to North Laguna Beach Residents and Highway 1 was closed to traffic.

- Fire was active for 4 days
- 1,876 Structure were in Mandatory Evacuation Zones
- 698 Structures were in Evacuation Warning Zones

New Wildfire Mitigation Tools Used in Response:

- New Heli pod Refueling Station

- New Outdoor Warning System
- New Real-Time ArcGIS Evacuation Map

6. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
February 13, 2022– March 16, 2022		
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	34	
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	7	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	4	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	837	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	32	
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)	104	
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	97	
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	172	
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	0	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	1	

TOTAL	1,288	
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Unit Utilization	Apparatus Count	2,828
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7. Commission Actions Status

9/22/2021	Enforcement of Existing Parking Rules and Regulations	Heard at 3/7 Public safety Committee		Staff Review for Response; Police, Public Works - in Agenda Process for 3/8 City Council Meeting ; referred to Public Safety Policy Committee
9/22/2021	Long Range Development Plan for UC Berkeley			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department - in Agenda Process for 4/12 City Council Meeting.
10/27/2021	Recommendation to identify High Risk Areas that are exempt from State Imposed Housing Increases Due to Public Safety Considerations	City Council 3/22/22 Agenda	Item 24	
12/1/2021	Measure FF Oversight Recommendation- revised			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department
2/23/2022	Request for Timely Fiscal Information on Measures FF and GG			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of February 23, 2022*

Motion to approve the minutes as revised: Dean

Second: Rader

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler, Simmons; 0 Noes; 2 Absent:

Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Abstain:

Action Items

3. Rescheduling the Regular Meeting Scheduled for April 27, 2022 to Another Date in April (Bedolla)

Motion to move the April 27 Regular Meeting of the Commission to April 13, 2022:

Bedolla

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler, Simmons; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Abstain:

Discussion Items

4. Commission Workplan (Bedolla)*
5. Measure GG and FF report (Staff)*
6. Presentation on Fire Hazard of Eucalyptus, Costs, and Monarch Butterflies by Professor Joe McBride (Rader)*
7. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Core Group Commission Designation Process (Bedolla)

K. Cutler left the meeting at 9:09pm

8. Discussion of Proposed Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program & Budget for FY 23-24 Budget* (Rader)
9. FEMA Grants Updates (Bedolla)
10. Discussion of Parking Enforcement Budget Item* (Rader)
11. Outdoor Warning System update/Laguna Beach System (Dean, Bedolla)
12. Process for notifying the Commission of Reports Status (Dean)
13. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps
 - a. Measure GG Tax Rate Increase

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Dean

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Abstain:

Adjourned at 9:50p

DFSC Staff Report

April 13th, 2022

1. Measure FF Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview – No Update

i. Program Review

- **Standards of Coverage Analysis** – The Department is undergoing an in-depth analysis of fixed and mobile resources to determine the best deployment model and to ensure the Department is responding effectively and efficiently.
 - Status: Contractor has completed the Risk Assessment and will deliver the Mid-Project Briefing to the City Manager, Fire Chief, Fire Union, City Council in April

- **Project Management and Subject Matter Expert (SME)** – Through this contract, the Department has relied on a team of professionals that have varied background including in project management, information technology, videography, marketing and industry specialists that have specific skills in emergency medical service and training.
 - Status: No Updates

- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** – The CWPP is a comprehensive risk analysis that addresses local target hazards and includes a community-based action plan to mitigate threats, promote preparedness activities, and ensure resiliency. It will serve as the foundation and roadmap for the Departments work to prevent wildfire and limit the spread when they ignite.
 - Update:

- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** – See chart below.

- **Retired Annuitants** – The retired annuitants are largely focused on performing vegetation inspections for properties in fire zone 2 and 3. They are also looking at transitioning the inspection from paper to mobile technology, re-tooling the re-inspection, citation, and violation process. The Department has also expanded its traditional hazardous fire area program to include all properties in fire zones 2 and 3.

- Update: No Updates

- **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic Recruitment – Single Function Job Classifications & Recruitment:**
 - The Division has worked collaboratively with Local 1227 and Human Resources to draft single function EMT and Paramedic Job Classifications which were approved with elation at the December Personnel Board meeting and were approved by the City Council on January 18th, 2022.
 - Update: No Updates

- **Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP):** Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures.
 - Update: No Updates.

- **Employee Physicals & Human Performance:** First responders suffer higher rates of chronic medical and psychological injury and illness than the general population. These issues are often directly correlated to shift work, traumatic experiences and stress, and exposure to carcinogens. Wellness programs have reduced healthcare and workers compensation costs associated with injuries and illness. Additionally, responders that are healthy (medically and psychiatrically) are more resilient, make better decisions and are more likely to be at work.
 - Update: After a multi-year solicitation process, two Contractors have been selected that will provide services that include but are not limited to, annual physical examinations, screening for cancer and other chronic diseases associated with the work, one-on-one consultations, managing wellness/fitness initiatives, coordinating awareness and motivational campaigns, mental and health related training, long-term data collection and analysis, and educational seminars. We will have one full time on site Human Performance Coach that will be likely starting by May of this year.

- **Dispatch Study:** Our goal, per Council direction is to enhance the dispatch center so it can triage calls, divert non-emergency calls (including mental health calls) to appropriate resources like the SCU; and provide emergency medical instructions to callers.
 - Status: No Updates.

- **Recruitments:**

- Shift Fire Inspector Recruitment –These are filled by existing fire department personnel and are used to assist with fire investigations and other inspection related activities in the built environment.
 - Update: Interviews have been completed and six members will begin this three-year assignment on May 1st, 2022.
- Sworn Fire Inspector Recruitment – Recruitment is on-going.
 - Update: Three new sworn fire prevention inspectors started work on April 4th, and have started their City of Berkeley in-house training.

- **Division of Training Property** – The Department is actively engaged to find a piece of property that will meet the City’s needs for the training and development of its emergency responders and support staff. Due to zoning, the cost of property and the proximity of residential units to most property in Berkeley, this location will likely be outside the City proper. This presents exciting opportunities for regional collaboration with other fire departments and a community college district.
 - Update: No Updates.

- ii. Implementation & Metrics

- **Outdoor Warning System** – The City of Berkeley MOU has been fully executed with the BUSD. We are still facilitating the permit process between the COB and vendor.

- iii. RFP Updates

- b. Program Specific Reports

- i. Defensible Space Inspection Updates

Vegetation Management Inspections – Annuitants

As of:	Vegetation Management Inspections						
4/4/2022							
	AI Inspections						
	Inspected	No Violation Found	Violations Found	Re-Inspection Required	Re-Inspection Completed	Re-Inspection No Violation Found	Re-Inspection w/Violations Found
Foley	136	53	83	83			
Frankel	628	576	52	52	3	3	
Greene	93	65	28	28	100	94	6
Guzman	1		1	1			
Higgins	559	465	94	94	2	2	
Johnson	292	160	132	132			
Lee	119	84	35	35	196	178	18
Marbury	310	172	138	138			
McCracken	102	70	32	32	94	65	29
Nagamoto	54	22	32	32	7	7	
Pinto	14	7	7	7	94	77	17
Ward	329	216	113	113	209	112	97
Williams	1144	1030	114	114	4	4	
Totals	3781	2920	861	861	709	542	167
Total Inspections	7,356						
% Completed	51%						

2. Measure GG Monthly Report –
 - a. Budget Overview – No Update
 - b. Emergency Services Coordinator Position
 - i. Applicants are being screened for qualifications week on April 12th and we are hoping to schedule interviews the week of May 9th.
 - ii. RFP Updates – No new updates.
3. Department Activities
 - a. Grants – No new update.
4. Safe Passage
 - Update: We have been working with Transportation and Traffic to repaint existing red curbs and replacing “no parking signs” that have faded as well as painting red in front of hydrants.
5. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type

March 17, 2022 – April 6, 2022

Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	13	
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	2	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	0	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	537	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	20	
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)	70	
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	67	
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	107	
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	0	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	2	
TOTAL	816	

Unit Utilization	Apparatus Count	1,835
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Additional questions items posed by the DFSC:

1. Will Measure GG Funds reimbursed for overtime costs caused by Covid-19 response? (Chief May)

This question has a few complexities to be aware of:

COVID-related hours were tagged with the COVID Project Code. (20EM08 in FUNDS or CWEM2008 in ERMA)

The work performed under these codes captures both work to fight COVID (ex: working at a vaccination site) and work required because of COVID (ex: backfill for someone out on COVID leave)

Some, but not all, of the Measure GG-funded OT work to fight COVID qualifies for reimbursement under FEMA. We have been submitting reimbursement requests to FEMA for over a year and have yet to see money back (or denials). FEMA is really, really, really backlogged.

If/when we receive FEMA reimbursement, the CMO's policy is that funds will be routed back into the account that originally paid for the OT. So we expect to see some FEMA reimbursement of Measure GG OT COVID costs, however it will not be complete, and we expect the overall process will take years.

6. Commission Actions Status

9/22/2021	Enforcement of Existing Parking Rules and Regulations	Heard at 3/7 Public safety Committee	Staff Review for Response; Police, Public Works - in Agenda Process for 3/8 City Council Meeting ; referred to Public Safety Policy Committee
9/22/2021	Long Range Development Plan for UC Berkeley		Staff Review for Response; Fire Department - in Agenda Process for 4/12 City Council Meeting.

10/27/2021	Recommendation to identify High Risk Areas that are exempt from State Imposed Housing Increases Due to Public Safety Considerations	City Council 3/22/22 Agenda	Item 24	
12/1/2021	Measure FF Oversight Recommendation- revised			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department
2/23/2022	Request for Timely Fiscal Information on Measures FF and GG			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department

Overview

Berkeley Community Wildfire Protection Plan

<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Outcome/ Results/ Deliverables</i>
<p>Task 1 Convene Decision-makers and interested parties.</p> <p>Develop list of decision-makers (minimum = local government, fire agencies and Cal Fire) + potential core CWPP advisory group (for 5 work sessions).</p> <p>Discuss requirements for the development of a Community Base Map based on available information</p> <p>Develop informational materials regarding process and stakeholder involvement. Post on CWPP on-line hub when established (Task 2).</p> <p>Convene core CWP advisory group. Provide follow-up information.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">May 4 @1:00 Work Session #1 Core Team</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 19 2022 – report activities @ Wengraff Wildfire community meeting</p>	<p><i>Invitations to participate to potential stakeholders for core CWPP advisory group.</i></p> <p><i>Work session #1 material: Agenda, scope, schedule; communication methods; participation opportunities; requirements of CWPP;</i></p> <p><i>Written summary.</i></p>
<p>Task 2 – Geospatial Hazard and Risk Assessment</p> <p>Review existing databases and analyses.</p> <p>Preliminary Community Base Map based on available information</p> <p>Develop geospatial hazard and risk assessment (available topo, fine-grained vegetative fuels, structure characteristics and density, access, fuel mitigation, power lines, typical traffic).</p> <p>Create wildfire hazard story map: CWPP on-line hub. Organize by watersheds. Summary of associated hazards.</p> <p>Calculate overall wildfire risk (if sufficient data).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Core Team mtg Work Session #2 July 27, @1:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Disaster and Fire Safety Commission #1 August 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wildfire hazard story map (and overall risk assessment if sufficient data) +on-line hub for public input</p>	<p><i>Work session #2 material: Agenda, preliminary Community base map wildfire hazard summary, risk assessment.</i></p> <p><i>Written summary of geospatial hazard and risk assessment</i></p> <p><i>CWPP on-line hub to share information and facilitate public input.</i></p>
<p>Task 3 – Projects and Priorities</p> <p>Prioritize potential hazard reduction strategies.</p> <p>Preliminary project recommendations, roles, responsibilities, funding needs and timetables.</p> <p>Link to CWPP on-line hub with project mapping tools.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Core Team mtg Work Session #3 Sept 21 @ 1:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Disaster and Fire Safety Commission #2: Sept 28 Strategies & projects</p>	<p><i>Work session #3: Agenda, strategies & projects materials.</i></p> <p><i>Written summary session #3.</i></p> <p><i>CWPP on-line hub update for input on project and priorities</i></p>

<p>Task 4 –Assessment Priorities & Action Plan</p> <p>Determine priority of projects and confirm action plans for implementation of highest priority projects. Link to CWPP on-line hub.</p>	<p><i>Core Team mtg Work Session #4 Nov 30 @ 1:00</i></p> <p><i>Disaster and Fire Safety Commission #3 Dec 7 Assessment Priorities & Action Plan</i></p>	<p><i>Work session #4: Agenda, priorities & action plan. Written summary session #4 CWPP on-line hub update for input on project and priorities</i></p>
<p>Task 5 – Admin & Public Review Draft Plan</p> <p>Admin Draft Plan. Circulate Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment.</p>	<p><i>Core Team mtg Work Session #5 Jan 25 @ 1:00 Admin Draft</i></p>	<p><i>Work session #5: Agenda, Admin Draft Plan Written summary session #5 CWPP on-line hub update with Public Draft Plan</i></p>
<p>Task 6 – Final Berkeley CWPP Adoption</p> <p>Finalize the Berkeley CWPP. Coordinate with agency partners and required signators. Present for City Council approval.</p>	<p><i>Recommend 60 days after #5 Final Plan for Approvals</i></p>	<p><i>Presentations to adopting bodies. Post final CWPP to on-line hub.</i></p>

4/13/22 ACTION ITEM (Substantive changes from 3/23/22 Draft shown)

Rader Recommendation for Measure FF spending in FY 23 & FY 24 - Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: José Luis Bedolla, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: Measure FF Budget Recommendation - Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program

RECOMMENDATION

Summary. For the FY 23 and FY 24 Measure FF budget, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) recommends prioritizing wildfire fuel reduction by establishing a Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program and bolstering the Fire Code to control vegetation across entire properties in Berkeley’s Very High Fire Severity Zones (VHFSZs) (Fire Zones 2 and 3). The program would also address hazardous trees in Fire Zone 1.

Funding for this program, together with the Fire Department’s existing home inspection program addressing defensible space around structures, would result in devoting 20 percent and 28 percent of Measure FF revenues for FY 23 and FY 24, respectively, on reducing wildfire risk through vegetation removal.

Description. The Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program would incentivize private property owners to allow the City to remove flammable trees and other vegetation throughout the property using Measure FF funds. This program is consistent with the recommendations of the Hills Emergency Forum, of which the City is a member along with other East Bay authorities, to thin and remove hazardous vegetation on private property as well as public property.¹ Flammable vegetation includes eucalyptus, Monterey pine, juniper and limited other species. The initial phase of the program (FY 23) would remove build-up of debris on the ground, remove loose bark, remove tree limbs to 4510 feet above ground or as appropriate, and remove saplings and subordinate trees that could ignite upper canopy throughout each property. The second phase (planned in FY 23, implemented in no later than FY 24) would fund removal of hazardous trees (but not stumps) and other hazardous vegetation and encourage or require revegetation with native, fire-resistant species.² The proposed budget includes a program manager, expert consultants (erosion control and re-vegetation), and crews.

¹ See Hills Emergency Forum (<http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org/MgmtRecmdtn.html>).

² Consultation with the City Attorney as to the ability to expend Measure FF funds on the revegetation element of this program is advised. If this element cannot be addressed with Measure FF funds, consideration should be given to requiring property owners that benefit from Measure FF funds to revegetate at their own expense.

Beginning in FY 25, property owners would be required to properly maintain their entire property under expanded Fire Code provisions that the Fire Department and the DFSC would develop for Council's consideration.

Three additional elements of the program should include: (a) tree and vegetation removal to meet existing regulations that require unobstructed 20-foot clearance for emergency egress and emergency vehicle access³; (b) Hazardous trees and vegetation on City property could be addressed through this program as needed,⁴ Large trees posing public safety hazards on private property that have been identified outside of the VHFSZs should be included in this program as an equity measure, if possible.⁵

Funding options for the initial and/or second phases: ~~[the Commission can leave this to Council, or recommend one or the other]~~

- ~~1. Fund 100% through Measure FF to most expeditiously reduce an extreme wildfire risk that, unlike other measures, can be addressed expeditiously.~~
- ~~2. Require a 25% (or more) cost share by each property owner.⁶ Property owners should be able to pay in installments. Low-income property owners should be assisted through a special program based on existing City models.~~

The Commission recommends ... *[Two options for Commission's (or Council's) consideration ...]*

[1] funding 100% of the initial and second phases through Measure FF. Publicly funding this effort is warranted due to the substantial public benefit that will accrue by reducing the catastrophic threat of wildfire to all City residents and given the availability of Measure FF funds which were intended, in part, for wildfire prevention. Attempting to impose means-testing and require cost-sharing would slow the process, reduce participation, and fail to address the risk in the most expeditious way possible.

[2] funding the initial and second phases through Measure FF in a streamlined application process wherein first priority and 100% funding is provided to property owners of lesser wealth, and lower priority and a decreasing portion of total costs is provided to property owners with greater wealth, on a schedule to be developed by City staff. Providing public funding of this effort is warranted due to the substantial public benefit that will accrue by reducing the catastrophic threat of wildfire to all City residents and given the availability of Measure FF funds which were intended, in part, for wildfire prevention. Requiring cost-sharing of those with greater wealth is warranted to address any private benefit that may accrue from hazardous vegetation removal. Property

³ Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 1273.01.

⁴ The City's Parks and Recreation Department is currently addressing these hazards in city parks and may largely complete the effort in FY 22.

⁵ Consultation with the City Attorney as to the ability to expend Measure FF funds on trees posing safety hazards other than wildfire is advised.

⁶ Regarding the eucalyptus groves: on average, there are 5 trees per property in the groves. The average cost of removing each tree is conservatively estimated to be \$2,000-\$5,000. (Tree-specific costs will depend on tree size, location, and surrounding structures.) Thus, a 25% cost share would cost is estimated to be on the order of \$2,500-\$6,200 per property owner to take out 5 trees (significantly more if trees are large and/or difficult to access).

owners should be able to pay in installments. ~~Low-income property owners should be assisted through a special program based on existing City models.~~

The DFSC also recommends maintaining the Fire Department’s existing home inspection program which is focused on creating defensible space by reducing vegetation around structures.

RECOMMENDATIONS - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT		
	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Continue current (FY 22) Spending on Vegetation Removal (Inspection Program, recurring) (Estimated)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program	\$ 720,000	\$ 1,370,000
Develop new fire safety regulations	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 1,720,000	\$ 2,370,000
Measure FF Annual Revenue	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 8,500,000
TOTAL % FF Funds	20%	28%

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This DFSC recommendation addresses the prioritization of Measure FF funds and will have no impact on General Funds. However, by prioritizing the reduction of flammable vegetation throughout Berkeley’s VHFSZs, these recommendations will reduce the likelihood of wildfire and the intensity and severity of any wildfires that occur in the City, which would ~~destroy homes and other property and~~ have ~~other~~ far-reaching negative fiscal impacts.

The Fire Department ~~is recently abandoned an application currently applying for a CalOES/FEMA grant to address hazardous vegetation. If the application addresses the identified needs, is granted, and sufficient funds can flow timely, those funds could obviate or defray the need to use Measure FF funds for the recommended program. If the application is not successful, however, this immediate wildfire safety risk should be addressed with FF funds. due to competing priorities, disqualifying events, costs and disproportionate commitment of staff time needed for grant application and performance.~~

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The existing home inspection program is limited to addressing a 30-foot radius around structures in the fire zone, and a 100-foot radius on slopes. Areas beyond these boundaries are not addressed in Berkeley’s Fire Code (BFC 4907.2) ~~and tree removal is generally not required.~~ Therefore, the inspection program does not address major areas of vegetation build-up and hazardous trees on private land ~~beyond 30 feet of most structures~~, which poses an immediate wildfire threat to the City.

BACKGROUND

Measure FF passed on November 3, 2020, with a 74.2 percent “yes” vote and generates approximately \$8.5 million annually. Among other important objectives, including improvements to the 9-1-1 dispatch system, training facility improvements,

and funding of new ambulances and technicians, the measure supports wildfire prevention and preparedness activities including vegetation management. In a 2020 community survey, a tax for wildfire prevention received 69 percent approval from residents and was the most popular rationale for a new tax to support fire and emergency services.⁷

Measure FF funds have been used in part to create a home inspection program housed in the Fire Department, which is aimed primarily at creating 30 feet of “defensible space” around structures. Additional clearance may, in some circumstances, such as on steep slopes, be required within 100 feet of structures,⁸ but tree removal is generally not required. Neither California’s nor Berkeley’s fire codes require clearance of brush beyond 100 feet of any structure. This means that many private property areas within Berkeley that contain dense vegetation and substantial fuel build-up on the ground will go untreated under current law and practice.

Berkeley has many areas of vegetative fuel build-up that are beyond 30 feet of any structure (or 100 feet on slopes). Examples of large such areas include numerous concentrations of eucalyptus and other hazardous vegetation that exist throughout Fire Zones 2 and 3, including canyons with creeks, such as Cerritos Creek and Codornices Creek canyons, and areas between homes on the long slopes between tiered streets that are often untended and overgrown. Eucalyptus trees are a particular hazard, due to their high fuel-loading per acre, ease of ignition, fire intensity and flame length.⁹ The Hillside Fire Safety Group has identified six eucalyptus groves on 98 private properties and two City parks (Remillard and Glendale-La Loma) that account for most of the approximately 544 eucalyptus trees on the north side of campus.¹⁰ Additional hazardous trees exist in Fire Zone 3 (Panoramic Hill) and in the Fire Zone 2 area south of campus (areas of which burned in the 1991 Tunnel Fire). Many, if not most, of these areas require clean up.

The consultant recently hired by the Fire Department to prepare its Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has explained the “unparalleled” potential of burning eucalyptus embers to create spot fires, which create some of the most destructive wildfires. The consultant noted that “[p]revention of crown fire in eucalyptus in the

⁷ See p. 5 of the supplemental material for item 13 on the June 2, 2020 Council meeting: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/06_June/City_Council_06-02-2020_-_Regular_Meeting_Agenda.aspx.

⁸ Berkeley Fire Department, “Fire Prevention Inspection Report, Wildland-Urban Interface Area” (Rev. 05/2020) (included in June 1, 2021, Berkeley Fire Department mailing to Berkeley property owners).

⁹ See East Bay Regional Park District, “Blue Gum Eucalyptus: A Wildfire Threat” (<http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org/docs/EucTreatment.pdf>); Russell and McBride, 2002, Agree et al., 1973, and Chenny, 1981, as cited in J.R. McBride’s Fuel Management Proposal for Claremont and Strawberry Canyons, 2019. (Available at <https://www.claremontcanyon.org/fuel-management-proposal>.)

¹⁰ Hillside Fire Safety Group presentation to the DFSC (February 23, 2022).

Berkeley/Oakland hills, and elsewhere in the East Bay *is of paramount importance to the fire safety of a very large population.*"¹¹

It is well understood that ladder fuels can carry fire from ground fuels to tree crowns where it can become a devastating fire that quickly spreads.¹² Within its "State Responsibility Area," CalFIRE has embarked on many programs to reduce fuel loads and create horizontal and vertical fuel breaks to protect California's most wildfire-vulnerable communities.¹³ CalFIRE is not responsible for densely populated areas, however, which falls to local governments such as Berkeley. While CalFIRE addresses fuel loads in areas near or adjacent to vulnerable urban areas, it is obviously at least equally important to address fuel loads *within* dense urban areas to reduce the likelihood and impacts of catastrophic wildfire.

The California Constitution generally prohibits "gifts of public funds" to any public or private person; however, such gifts are allowed for a public purpose, and that public purpose is to be liberally construed.¹⁴ The city and state have numerous programs that spend public funds on private property for the purposes of disaster preparedness **and public safety.**¹⁵ Using public funds to reduce fuels that significantly contribute to the risk of wildfire would likely be considered a public purpose, particularly given the limited incidental benefits that would accrue to landowners. Berkeley's City Attorney should confirm this view.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

These Acting on these recommendations will reduce the likelihood, intensity and severity of a wildfire in the City, **which could have potentially avoiding devastating and** far-reaching **human and** environmental impacts in our City. The proposed program would promote the replacement of flammable, non-native tree and shrub species with natural, more fire-resistant native species, **such as coast live oak trees that provide superior**

¹¹ Carol Rice, Wildland Res Mgt, UC Berkeley [Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan](#) at pp. 25-27 (July 2020 Draft). Emphasis added.

¹² See CalFIRE, Fire and Fuels Treatment 0 <https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/resource-protection-improvement/wildfire-resilience/forest-stewardship/fire-and-fuels-treatment/>.

¹³ See, e.g., CalFIRE's Fuel Reduction Guide (2021) (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4jgerfjh/fuels-reduction-guide-final-2021-interactive.pdf>).

¹⁴ See League of California Cities, "Gift of Public Funds (Spoiler Alert: It's Illegal)" at p. 1. Available at: https://www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Member-Engagement/Professional-Departments/City-Attorneys/Library/2016/Annual-2016/10-2016-Annual_Forbath_Gift-of-Public-Funds_Spoile.aspx.

¹⁵ Several City of Berkeley programs provide public funds for private benefit, including a FEMA-funded seismic retrofit program providing grants of up to \$150,000 (see https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_Building_and_Safety/RetrofitGrants_ProgramRules.pdf), and a free fuel chipper and debris bin program, funded through a refuse bill surcharge (see https://www.cityofberkeley.info/fire_fuel_program/). Alameda County offers grants of up to \$10,000 per homeowner to abate lead hazards (see <https://www.achhd.org/programs/leadfunding.htm>).

habitat for many insect, avian, and mammal species, compared with eucalyptus.¹⁶ To prevent regrowth of eucalyptus, the program should rely on non-chemical/pesticidal, manual sprouting control for each of the two-several years following eucalyptus removal, if stumps are not removed.

The Hills Emergency Forum, of which the City is a member along with other East Bay authorities, has developed best management practices (BMPs) to reduce potential environmental impacts of fuel reduction projects and to comply with various laws and regulations.¹⁷

The revegetation component of the program is expected to partially mitigate the carbon impact of removing hazardous trees. The City could mitigate remaining carbon impacts by using additional Measure FF funds to supplement the City's existing program to plant trees in northwest and southwest Berkeley.¹⁸

Permits are not required to prune or remove any tree on private property, with the exception of coast live oak (which will be planted, not removed, under this program).¹⁹

Land use projects that require trees to be cut down are often not considered significant environmental effects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).²⁰ While the City may nevertheless find "detriment" under the City's zoning ordinance for impacts not considered significant, the environmental and public safety benefits of removing hazardous vegetation more than outweigh any such detriments, particularly given the revegetation element of the program.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The geography, weather patterns, drought conditions and dense vegetation in the East Bay create ideal conditions for wildfire, which could have devastating consequences to Berkeley. Reducing these fuels wherever they exist has been identified as a high priority in the CWPPs of other East Bay jurisdictions²¹ that have identified eucalyptus and Monterey pine as a particular hazard "due to their rapid growth, height at maturity,

¹⁶ See: California Native Plant Society East Bay (<https://ebcnps.org/conservation/balancing-fire-safety-with-native-ecosystem-protection-2022-02/>); Hills Emergency Forum (<http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org/MgmtRecmdtn.html>); East Bay Regional Park District, "Blue Gum Eucalyptus: A Wildfire Threat" (<http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org/docs/EucTreatment.pdf>);

¹⁷ See Hills Emergency Forum, Best Management Practices Working Paper, 10/17/08 (<http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org/docs/BMPs.pdf>).

¹⁸ See *Berkeleyside*, "Berkeley residents can request free saplings to combat tree inequity" (March 8, 2022) (<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2022/03/08/trees-make-life-better-berkeley>).

¹⁹ See City of Berkeley, Tree Pruning and Removal (https://www.cityofberkeley.info/pruning_removal/).

²⁰ See City of Berkeley, General Information on CEQA ([https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Land_Use_Division/Environmental_Review_\(CEQA\).aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Land_Use_Division/Environmental_Review_(CEQA).aspx)).

²¹ See the CWPPs of El Cerrito-Kensington, Contra Costa County, Alameda County and others available at the website of the Diablo Firesafe Council, www.diablofiresafe.org. Also see EBRPD, note 5 *supra*.

dense foliage, shallow root structure, flammability, breakability or invasiveness.”²²
“[E]ucalyptus ... are subject to torching and crown fires with potential high ember flight rates into residential areas.”²³

UC Berkeley (UCB) has also recognized the threat, having cleared eucalyptus trees in Claremont Canyon.²⁴ UCB is currently in the process of removing eucalyptus and other trees and ladder fuels in the hills behind UCB along the Jordan Fire Trail, as part of a larger plan entailing the widespread removal of eucalyptus trees.²⁵ LBNL is currently seeking \$2.9 million from CalFire to remove all 1,500 eucalyptus trees on its property.²⁶

The areas containing the greatest mass of hazardous fuel build-up in Berkeley exist on private property beyond 30 feet of any structure (or 100 feet on slopes) and thus are not addressed by the City’s Fire Code or the Fire Department’s residential vegetation management inspection program. Removal of hazardous vegetation is the most effective and timely means available to the City for reducing the severe risk of wildfire. In addition, tall trees posing public safety hazards have been identified outside of the VHFSZs and should be included in this program.

The DFSC estimates that all of Berkeley’s hazardous vegetation could be removed by continuing this program for an additional one to three years beyond FY 24, depending on the interest shown by homeowners, the **average** actual cost of removing trees **and revegetating**, and **in view of the potential for** increased regulation of these areas in the future.

The City could pattern the program after the Parks & Recreation’s vegetation removal program (or expand the program), where Parks conducts competitive bidding and issues umbrella contracts to several firms that are then called upon for specific jobs. Parks may also have procedures to cost share where private property is involved.

Adopting this recommendation will ensure that the City immediately reduces the extreme risk of wildfire, reduces the likelihood of ignition of homes and other structures in the event of wildfire, and meets the City’s obligations under Measure FF.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Fire Department may have alternative proposed recommendations for the expenditure of Measure FF funds.

²² See *El Cerrito - Kensington Wildfire Action Plan*, p. 1.7. Also see *Contra Costa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update*, p. 2.5 and *Sunol Wildfire Action Plan* at 4.2.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ See <https://www.dailycal.org/2021/01/19/uc-berkeley-project-removes-claremont-canyon-trees-for-evacuation-route/#:~:text=In%20a%20project%20spearheaded%20by%20UC%20Berkeley%2C%20eucalyptus,November%202020%2C%20according%20to%20campus%20spokesperson%20Janet%20Gilmore.>

²⁵ See <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2021/09/06/popular-cal-trail-closes-fire-safety-work/>.

²⁶ **Personal correspondence between Jennifer Tang, Director of Community Relations, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Henry DeNero, Hillside Fire Safety Group, January 2022.**

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]

4/13/22 ACTION ITEM (Clean version)

Rader Recommendation for Measure FF spending in FY 23 & FY 24 - Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: José Luis Bedolla, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: Measure FF Budget Recommendation - Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program

RECOMMENDATION

Summary. For the FY 23 and FY 24 Measure FF budget, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) recommends prioritizing wildfire fuel reduction by establishing a Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program and bolstering the Fire Code to control vegetation across entire properties in Berkeley’s Very High Fire Severity Zones (VHFSZs) (Fire Zones 2 and 3). The program would also address hazardous trees in Fire Zone 1.

Funding for this program, together with the Fire Department’s existing home inspection program addressing defensible space around structures, would result in devoting 20 percent and 28 percent of Measure FF revenues for FY 23 and FY 24, respectively, on reducing wildfire risk through vegetation removal.

Description. The Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program would incentivize private property owners to allow the City to remove flammable trees and other vegetation throughout the property using Measure FF funds. This program is consistent with the recommendations of the Hills Emergency Forum, of which the City is a member along with other East Bay authorities, to thin and remove hazardous vegetation on private property as well as public property.¹ Flammable vegetation includes eucalyptus, Monterey pine, juniper and limited other species. The initial phase of the program (FY 23) would remove build-up of debris on the ground, remove loose bark, remove tree limbs to 4510 feet above ground or as appropriate, and remove saplings and subordinate trees that could ignite upper canopy throughout each property. The second phase (planned in FY 23, implemented in no later than FY 24) would fund removal of hazardous trees and other hazardous vegetation and encourage or require revegetation with native, fire-resistant species.² The proposed budget includes a program manager, expert consultants (erosion control and re-vegetation), and crews. Beginning in FY 25,

¹ See Hills Emergency Forum (<http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org/MgmtRecmdtn.html>).

² Consultation with the City Attorney as to the ability to expend Measure FF funds on the revegetation element of this program is advised. If this element cannot be addressed with Measure FF funds, consideration should be given to requiring property owners that benefit from Measure FF funds to revegetate at their own expense.

property owners would be required to properly maintain their entire property under expanded Fire Code provisions that the Fire Department and the DFSC would develop for Council's consideration.

Three additional elements of the program should include: (a) tree and vegetation removal to meet existing regulations that require unobstructed 20-foot clearance for emergency egress and emergency vehicle access³; (b) Hazardous trees and vegetation on City property could be addressed through this program as needed,⁴ Large trees posing public safety hazards on private property that have been identified outside of the VHFSZs should be included in this program as an equity measure, if possible.⁵

The Commission recommends ...***[Two options for Commission's (or Council's) consideration ...]***

[1] funding 100% of the initial and second phases through Measure FF. Publicly funding this effort is warranted due to the substantial public benefit that will accrue by reducing the catastrophic threat of wildfire to all City residents and given the availability of Measure FF funds which were intended, in part, for wildfire prevention. Attempting to impose means-testing and require cost-sharing would slow the process, reduce participation, and fail to address the risk in the most expeditious way possible.

[2] funding the initial and second phases through Measure FF in a streamlined application process wherein first priority and 100% funding is provided to property owners of lesser wealth, and lower priority and a decreasing portion of total costs is provided to property owners with greater wealth, on a schedule to be developed by City staff. Providing public funding of this effort is warranted due to the substantial public benefit that will accrue by reducing the catastrophic threat of wildfire to all City residents and given the availability of Measure FF funds which were intended, in part, for wildfire prevention. Requiring cost-sharing of those with greater wealth is warranted to address any private benefit that may accrue from hazardous vegetation removal. Property owners should be able to pay in installments.

The DFSC also recommends maintaining the Fire Department's existing home inspection program which is focused on creating defensible space by reducing vegetation around structures.

³ Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 1273.01.

⁴ The City's Parks and Recreation Department is currently addressing these hazards in city parks and may largely complete the effort in FY 22.

⁵ Consultation with the City Attorney as to the ability to expend Measure FF funds on trees posing safety hazards other than wildfire is advised.

RECOMMENDATIONS - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT		
	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Continue current (FY 22) Spending on Vegetation Removal (Inspection Program, recurring) (Estimated)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program	\$ 720,000	\$ 1,370,000
Develop new fire safety regulations	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 1,720,000	\$ 2,370,000
Measure FF Annual Revenue	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 8,500,000
TOTAL % FF Funds	20%	28%

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This DFSC recommendation addresses the prioritization of Measure FF funds and will have no impact on General Funds. However, by prioritizing the reduction of flammable vegetation throughout Berkeley’s VHFSZs, these recommendations will reduce the likelihood of wildfire and the intensity and severity of any wildfires that occur in the City, which would destroy homes and other property and have other far-reaching negative fiscal impacts.

The Fire Department recently abandoned an application for a CalOES/FEMA grant to address hazardous vegetation due to competing priorities, disqualifying events, costs and disproportionate commitment of staff time needed for grant application and performance.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The existing home inspection program is limited to addressing a 30-foot radius around structures in the fire zone, and a 100-foot radius on slopes. Areas beyond these boundaries are not addressed in Berkeley’s Fire Code (BFC 4907.2) and tree removal is generally not required. Therefore, the inspection program does not address major areas of vegetation build-up and hazardous trees on private land, which pose an immediate wildfire threat to the City.

BACKGROUND

Measure FF passed on November 3, 2020, with a 74.2 percent “yes” vote and generates approximately \$8.5 million annually. Among other important objectives, including improvements to the 9-1-1 dispatch system, training facility improvements, and funding of new ambulances and technicians, the measure supports wildfire prevention and preparedness activities including vegetation management. In a 2020 community survey, a tax for wildfire prevention received 69 percent approval from residents and was the most popular rationale for a new tax to support fire and emergency services.⁶

Measure FF funds have been used in part to create a home inspection program housed

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in the Fire Department, which is aimed primarily at creating 30 feet of “defensible space” around structures. Additional clearance may, in some circumstances, such as on steep slopes, be required within 100 feet of structures,⁷ but tree removal is generally not required. Neither California’s nor Berkeley’s fire codes require clearance of brush beyond 100 feet of any structure. This means that many private property areas within Berkeley that contain dense vegetation and substantial fuel build-up on the ground will go untreated under current law and practice.

Berkeley has many areas of vegetative fuel build-up that are beyond 30 feet of any structure (or 100 feet on slopes). Examples of large such areas include numerous concentrations of eucalyptus and other hazardous vegetation that exist throughout Fire Zones 2 and 3, including canyons with creeks, such as Cerritos Creek and Codornices Creek canyons, and areas between homes on the long slopes between tiered streets that are often untended and overgrown. Eucalyptus trees are a particular hazard, due to their high fuel-loading per acre, ease of ignition, fire intensity and flame length.⁸ The Hillside Fire Safety Group has identified six eucalyptus groves on 98 private properties and two City parks (Remillard and Glendale-La Loma) that account for most of the approximately 544 eucalyptus trees on the north side of campus.⁹ Additional hazardous trees exist in Fire Zone 3 (Panoramic Hill) and in the Fire Zone 2 area south of campus (areas of which burned in the 1991 Tunnel Fire). Many, if not most, of these areas require clean up.

The consultant recently hired by the Fire Department to prepare its Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has explained the “unparalleled” potential of burning eucalyptus embers to create spot fires, which create some of the most destructive wildfires. The consultant noted that “[p]revention of crown fire in eucalyptus in the Berkeley/Oakland hills, and elsewhere in the East Bay *is of paramount importance to the fire safety of a very large population.*”¹⁰

It is well understood that ladder fuels can carry fire from ground fuels to tree crowns where it can become a devastating fire that quickly spreads.¹¹ Within its “State Responsibility Area,” CalFIRE has embarked on many programs to reduce fuel loads and create horizontal and vertical fuel breaks to protect California’s most wildfire-

⁷ Berkeley Fire Department, “Fire Prevention Inspection Report, Wildland-Urban Interface Area” (Rev. 05/2020) (included in June 1, 2021, Berkeley Fire Department mailing to Berkeley property owners).

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vulnerable communities.¹² CalFIRE is not responsible for densely populated areas, however, which falls to local governments such as Berkeley. While CalFIRE addresses fuel loads in areas near or adjacent to vulnerable urban areas, it is obviously at least equally important to address fuel loads *within* dense urban areas to reduce the likelihood and impacts of catastrophic wildfire.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Acting on these recommendations will reduce the likelihood, intensity and severity of a wildfire in the City, potentially avoiding devastating and far-reaching human and environmental impacts in our City. The proposed program would promote the replacement of flammable, non-native tree and shrub species with natural, more fire-resistant native species, such as coast live oak trees that provide superior habitat for many insect, avian, and mammal species, compared with eucalyptus.¹⁵ To prevent regrowth of eucalyptus, the program should rely on non-pesticidal, manual sprouting control for several years following eucalyptus removal, if stumps are not removed.

The Hills Emergency Forum, of which the City is a member along with other East Bay authorities, has developed best management practices (BMPs) to reduce potential

¹² See, e.g., CalFIRE’s Fuel Reduction Guide (2021) (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4jqerfjh/fuels-reduction-guide-final-2021-interactive.pdf>).

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environmental impacts of fuel reduction projects and to comply with various laws and regulations.¹⁶

The revegetation component of the program is expected to partially mitigate the carbon impact of removing hazardous trees. The City could mitigate remaining carbon impacts by using additional Measure FF funds to supplement the City's existing program to plant trees in northwest and southwest Berkeley.¹⁷

Permits are not required to prune or remove any tree on private property, with the exception of coast live oak (which will be planted, not removed, under this program).¹⁸

Land use projects that require trees to be cut down are often not considered significant environmental effects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).¹⁹ While the City may nevertheless find "detriment" under the City's zoning ordinance for impacts not considered significant, the environmental and public safety benefits of removing hazardous vegetation more than outweigh any such detriments, particularly given the revegetation element of the program.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The geography, weather patterns, drought conditions and dense vegetation in the East Bay create ideal conditions for wildfire, which could have devastating consequences to Berkeley. Reducing these fuels wherever they exist has been identified as a high priority in the CWPPs of other East Bay jurisdictions²⁰ that have identified eucalyptus and Monterey pine as a particular hazard "due to their rapid growth, height at maturity, dense foliage, shallow root structure, flammability, breakability or invasiveness."²¹ "[E]ucalyptus ... are subject to torching and crown fires with potential high ember flight rates into residential areas."²²

UC Berkeley (UCB) has also recognized the threat, having cleared eucalyptus trees in Claremont Canyon.²³ UCB is currently in the process of removing eucalyptus and other

¹⁶ See Hills Emergency Forum, Best Management Practices Working Paper, 10/17/08 (<http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org/docs/BMPs.pdf>).

¹⁷ See *Berkeleyside*, "Berkeley residents can request free saplings to combat tree inequity" (March 8, 2022) (<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2022/03/08/trees-make-life-better-berkeley>).

¹⁸ See City of Berkeley, Tree Pruning and Removal (https://www.cityofberkeley.info/pruning_removal/).

¹⁹ See City of Berkeley, General Information on CEQA ([https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Land_Use_Division/Environmental_Review_\(CEQA\).aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Land_Use_Division/Environmental_Review_(CEQA).aspx)).

²⁰ See the CWPPs of El Cerrito-Kensington, Contra Costa County, Alameda County and others available at the website of the Diablo Firesafe Council, www.diablofiresafe.org. Also see EBRPD, note 5 *supra*.

²¹ See *El Cerrito - Kensington Wildfire Action Plan*, p. 1.7. Also see *Contra Costa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update*, p. 2.5 and *Sunol Wildfire Action Plan* at 4.2.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ See <https://www.dailycal.org/2021/01/19/uc-berkeley-project-removes-claremont-canyon-trees-for-evacuation->

trees and ladder fuels in the hills behind UCB along the Jordan Fire Trail, as part of a larger plan entailing the widespread removal of eucalyptus trees.²⁴ LBNL is currently seeking \$2.9 million from CalFire to remove all 1,500 eucalyptus trees on its property.²⁵

The areas containing the greatest mass of hazardous fuel build-up in Berkeley exist on private property beyond 30 feet of any structure (or 100 feet on slopes) and thus are not addressed by the City's Fire Code or the Fire Department's residential vegetation management inspection program. Removal of hazardous vegetation is the most effective and timely means available to the City for reducing the severe risk of wildfire. In addition, tall trees posing public safety hazards have been identified outside of the VHFSZs and should be included in this program.

The DFSC estimates that all of Berkeley's hazardous vegetation could be removed by continuing this program for an additional one to three years beyond FY 24, depending on the interest shown by homeowners, the actual cost of removing trees and revegetating, and increased regulation of these areas in the future.

The City could pattern the program after the Parks & Recreation's vegetation removal program (or expand the program), where Parks conducts competitive bidding and issues umbrella contracts to several firms that are then called upon for specific jobs. Parks may also have procedures to cost share where private property is involved.

Adopting this recommendation will ensure that the City immediately reduces the extreme risk of wildfire, reduces the likelihood of ignition of homes and other structures in the event of wildfire, and meets the City's obligations under Measure FF.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Fire Department may have alternative proposed recommendations for the expenditure of Measure FF funds.

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

[route/#:~:text=In%20a%20project%20spearheaded%20by%20UC%20Berkeley%2C%20eucalyptus,November%202020%2C%20according%20to%20campus%20spokesperson%20Janet%20Gilmore.](#)

²⁴ See <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2021/09/06/popular-cal-trail-closes-fire-safety-work/>.

²⁵ Personal correspondence between Jennifer Tang, Director of Community Relations, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Henry DeNero, Hillside Fire Safety Group, January 2022.

[Name], [Title], [Department]

4/13/22 ACTION ITEM

Recommendations of Nancy Rader for Parking Enforcement Budget in FY23 & FY24

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: José Luis Bedolla, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: Budget Recommendation for Parking Enforcement

RECOMMENDATION

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) recommends, for FY 23 and FY 24, funding for parking enforcement in Fire Zones 2 and 3 from the General Fund to allow patrols of at least one full-time-employee-day per week.

Illegal parking in Fire Zones 2 and 3 impedes access by emergency vehicles and will impede evacuation in the event of wildfire. Illegal parking can also block sidewalks. Therefore, the DFSC recently recommended that Council direct the Berkeley Police Department to enforce the existing parking restrictions in the Berkeley Municipal Code in Fire Zones 2 and 3.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

At its March 7, 2022, meeting, pursuant to an earlier recommendation of the DFSC to enforce parking in Fire Zones 2 and 3, the Council’s Public Safety Committee requested information from the Police Department on the budget implications of patrolling these areas. The DFSC recommends that the Council enable significant parking enforcement in Fire Zones 2 and 3 by advancing funds as needed from the General Fund. The fiscal impacts of patrolling these areas are being determined in response to a pending inquiry of the Council’s Public Safety Committee.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley residents, visitors and delivery vehicles regularly violate numerous provisions of the state and city vehicle codes. Illegal parking can impede access by emergency vehicles, as well as city refuse trucks, on a daily basis. Pedestrian safety can also be placed in jeopardy. The inability to evacuate was a contributing factor to the deaths that occurred in the 1991 Oakland / Berkeley Tunnel Fire.¹

¹ FEMA, *East Bay Hills Fire Oakland-Berkeley Hills*, USFA-TR-060/October 1991.

BACKGROUND

As the City of Berkeley continues its planning process to build more housing, it is even more imperative that existing parking restrictions be enforced, at least on an occasional basis, to encourage individuals not to use a public good for private benefit. We need to build a culture of fire prevention and public safety that allows emergency vehicles to access all parts of the City and promote the ability to evacuate in the event of a wildfire.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There is no environmental impact to this recommendation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure that emergency vehicles, as well as city refuse trucks, can access all properties on the narrow streets in Fire Zones 2 and 3, to promote pedestrian safety, and to promote the ability to evacuate in the event of a wildfire.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Alternatives and supplemental actions could be considered as part of the City's Safe Passages program and could include changing streets to one-way only rather than two-way, adding additional red curbing, especially on the smallest width streets in **Zones 2 and 3**, and adding to the Fire District Parking Restrictions. Each of these has the possibility of additional costs, and community involvement and consultation should be sought before implementation.

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]

Chin, Khin

From: beneficialbug@sonic.net
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 12:01 AM
To: Chin, Khin; May, Keith
Subject: East Bay Pesticide Alert 2015 program info

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please distribute to all the Disaster and Fire Safety Commissioners.

Dear Commissioners,

I appreciate the work of city commissions and recognize that, just as with the council, you sometimes are limited in what has been presented to you.

I thought that tonight was about county Measure FF funds being funneled down to the city. In any case, we face similar issues city and county, and what I can tell you from being very much involved, formally, in opposition to the county measure, we got loads of feedback later that, people had no idea what they were funding when they voted for FF. It was like a playback of the 2004 Oakland Hills vote for the WPAD (Wildfire Prevention Assessment District). People were misled by vague language but photos showing goats, for instance; we heard from many hills residents after that, they expected their self-assessment would go into two things: 1) goats to graze and munch on what people consider weeds; 2) door-to-door SUPPORT for understanding creating defensible space around their homes. But what it's been used for is deforestation and pesticing. The plans in the EIR process use the euphemism of "thinning" but the actual plans are to kill 90% of the hills trees, this even before the recent announcement of plans to log the snags to the tune of 1 million, completely disregarding the role snag forests play in a healthy ecosystem.

I'd caution you about many things, including that this hysterical hills group that has been promoting killing trees and, yes, pesticing even though they now say they don't promote it (not promoting and actually not using can be different things). A few years ago when the Hills Conservation Network, part of our Coalition to Defend East Bay Forests (<https://defendeastbayforests.wordpress.com/>) sued the FEMA EIS over the number of trees under attack. Sierra Club, supported by the Claremont Conservancy, sued saying they wanted all eucalyptus removed.

You got to hear Joe McBride talking about wanting to see the hills as they were hundreds of years ago. This is an arbitrary assumption that what was hundreds of years ago is a good idea for now. The difference is that, we have millions of people in the region now, much pollution (including pesticides), and all circumstances are different.

Early in 2021, we had weeks of bad air which left me at home huddled over my air filters (asthma... thanks Monsanto/Bayer, Dow-E;amco, et al). I could find no sign of any major wildfires which could be drifting over Berkeley. But what I figured out a bit later was that, since HCN didn't have money enough to sue UC again over its incessant tree decimation, UC had gone in and killed hundreds and hundreds of healthy trees (and pesticed the whole area, which is part of the hillside plans and actions over the past couple decades).

When sequestered carbon is released, it does not magically disappear; it hangs in the atmosphere for long periods of time adding to the cumulative toxic burden we face already. And we lose the ream of oxygen the trees had been producing. We lose the moist soil that was created by fog drip. The pesticides used translocate through the air, through the soil, and are ingested by wildlife, and by people foraging for food in the hills, something especially many immigrants do as a matter of need.

We are living the toxic world which has been created where as of 2015 46 % of young kids were diagnosed with chronic illnesses where in the 60's only 4% of the whole population was diagnosed with chronic illnesses.

Further, Joe McBride and the rest of the Nativists love to talk about Oaks as though they'd thrive in the hills now. They won't; they're dying off due to Sudden Oak Death, a fungus which, unfortunately, UC has promoted trying to kill with fungicides (pesticides). Predictably, when you consider basic biology, more Oaks are dying. Pesticides, like antibiotics, develop resistance. So then the strongest survive and reproduce. That's what UC has given us up and down the coastal areas of California.

SOD first was reported when I was living in toxic Sonoma for a few years. Unconscionable grape growers, not farmers, out of greed wildly over-planted vines causing many Sonoma Valley wells to go dry (and resulting in much fungus, and growers using fungicides). Most in the Valley are not wealthy, but are blue collar workers. and the 20-40 thousand dollar bills they were getting in the 90's for having to have wells dug deeper broke many families. But it also broke the environment, causing drought conditions, and so SOD showed up because Oak trees were distressed from lack of water. Think about that, please, next time you pick up a glass of wine from Sonoma or Napa, or the Central Coast. If it's organic, or made with organically-grown grapes, farmers are planting maybe 60 out of 360 acres so land can regenerate, and they're often dry-farming rather than going for water-bulked-up grapes. They're the ones to support.

SOD marched down California, affecting oaks which were anywhere near wine grape regions. I guess part of what I'm saying here is that, we cannot focus, ever, on just one plant or insect; each has its place and remove one and you get some predictable, and often other unpredictable effects.

Eucs thrive here because they can pick up that Golden Gate fog, drip it down to the soil, keep the soil immediately moist, and like camels, pack moisture into their ample roots to release when needed, especially in hotter months.

We can treat them as though they are invaders or we can remember they were planted for various reasons throughout our state, including as wind breaks up and down what now are highways, and including to hold creek beds, which they've done magnificently in San Leandro Creek, at least where some remain after attacks on many along that creek 12 years ago. Where people came out in force to refuse the county water department's disingenuous "need" to kill trees when they had done zero maintenance of fire ladders over years and years, considering that people's homes backed up to the creek on each side, people called them on it and in the neighborhoods where people did, those tall trees remain, as do the raptors who frequent them.

Some of you on the commission may have little history of these plans but in 2005 we interacted with Tom Klatt of UC's office of Emergency Mgmt., who was pushing EBRPD and Oakland, as well as EBMUD and PG&E. and other agencies, to deforest and pesticide. For over 17 years we've been dealing with lies and misinformation put out by the loudest voices who hold sway, and who often influence others with intentional misinformation.

We've got no skin in the game other than people's and wildlife health. EBPA was formed by people who had been sickened by pesticides, and others who understood dangers. I was out there talking about the importance of mycorrhizal fungi which would be killed by this hills denuding and pesticing. Now it seems like people are starting to get that you kill the soil and you're killing a lot more. Same with trees; you get rid of trees and besides losing the oxygen, you lose other species along the way. We're in a time of climate chaos where species are being lost in record time, and I hope you will watch the EBPA video of a program in 2015 where you can see an enlightening slideshow and talk by a conservation biologist about normal species migration and to see that what some people like to mark as non-native often holds no truth and, more importantly, succession of species is a normal part of biology. Acclimation of species must be considered if one is looking at things from a holistic perspective.

The EBPA program can be found by going to the Wildfire page at

www.eastbaypesticidealert.org. If you scroll down just a little bit beyond the No on FF poster (this was about the county measure) you'll see a listing of some programs, along with descriptions of who is speaking.

The firefighter I mentioned, David Maloney, will have you understanding in a couple minutes the danger of removing the Eucs, Monterey Pines, and Acacias under attack.

Below the Wildfire page there is a full page devoted to The WPAD and about how it came to be, and what it actually was about. You can read the No Quick Fix! article on that page which was written before we had any idea the deforestation planned. We first got involved in this debacle thinking they were talking about teh occasional tree that may be falling over a trail, providing piles of alternatives to pesticide use if they were so concerned about re-sprouting.

I would encourage you to look up Professor Chad Hanson, who was mentioned this evening. He explains and has useful photos in his presentations you can find on youtube, showing what really happens after clearcuts. It ain't pretty, and it ain't firesafe.

And about USFS... you do, realize, I hope that, they are of the logging industry. They sound like a government agency but are under the Dept. of Agriculture, which supports many toxic endeavors such as statewide and U.S.-wide pesticing programs. You want details on that? You can go to our 'pesticide of the week' page on www.eastbaypesticidealert.org to understand the Dept. of Ag.

Several of us who spoke up tonight have had much of our lives wrecked by pesticides. We are a cautionary tale; we are canaries in the coal mine.

I have only about 3 productive hours a day. As I've pushed myself this evening to write this, the effect will be long sleeping tomorrow.

There's a now-easy way to get people to try to understand some of the effects of pesticides besides the utterly life/death aspects; the chronic fatigue many of us face is like what people have been talking a lot about with what they call Long Covid. That has been my life since 1994.

Because of attending the meeting, if I didn't push through it wouldn't happen because I was already pushed into the needing extra sleep zone by attending the meeting at all.

Very last thing I want to get in here... I hope you all do try to get FEMA money, but not for destruction of our lungs, but for a plan I've been promoting for years which people like to dismiss. To our peril.

Money needs to be funding buying houses from willing buyers, at market rates, in order to break up the grass grid in the hills. One by one, disconnect houses AND train and pay people to dismantle houses, learning lead and asbestos safe removal and disposal processes, much needed in general. This is not pie in the sky, but practical and necessary if people want to see some semblance of fire safety in the hills. You want Berkeley to be known as a leader? Now as there are billions for infrastructure projects available for even 8 years out from now, this is a time to get money for this purpose. Get people scared of trees to move into the concrete jungle downtown. According to the Rent Board, as of end of March there were 3,700 empty housing units in the city, and as of end of October, there were still 3,500, according to Kate Harrison when I brought up the first number in a neighborhood meeting.

If you've read this far, I am confident you actually care about these issues and hope you will go to that July, 2015 presentation where you'll hear this firefighter trained in BOTH structural and wildfire firefighting talk about WHY no trees are talked about in the "fire bible" as particularly fire dangers. It will be worth your time to watch his fire demonstration. I promise.

Thanks for your consideration,
Max

--

Maxina Ventura
Classical Homeopathy, Non-toxic Medicine
All Ages, All Genders
WiseWomanHealth.com

Berkeley Hillside Fire Safety Group

"Neighbors working together to mitigate risk and increase our fire safety through preparedness."

www.berkeleyhillsidefiresafety.org

April 6, 2022

Request for Clean Up Hazardous Ground Cover in Privately Owned Eucalyptus Groves

Dear Mayor Arreguín, Berkeley City Council, City Manager Williams-Ridley, Fire Chief Roman, and Disaster & Fire Safety Commission Chair Bedolla,

On behalf of the over 2,500 Berkeley residents whose interests are represented by the Hillside Association of Berkeley (HAB) and its Hillside Fire Safety Group (HFSG), we request that you give immediate attention to cleaning up the six Eucalyptus groves in the Northside Hill Area that are found on approximately 100 private parcels. We define the Northside Hill Area as bounded by the UC Berkeley and Berkeley Lab campuses on the south, Grizzly Peak Boulevard on the east, Marin Avenue on the north, and Euclid Avenue on the west. We urge you to consider using Measure FF funds for this purpose. This request was previously made to the Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) following an initial request to the Fire Department. A proposal similar to ours has also been submitted to the DFSC by two commissioners. Due to the urgency and significance of the threat posed to the entire City of Berkeley, we ask for your immediate consideration. We are happy to meet with City Council members and other City executives to further discuss this request. We are also happy to provide tours of the six groves in question. Our overriding goal is to help our City and its Fire Department succeed at protecting our community from wildfire.

Specifically, we ask the City Council to do the following:

-Act to authorize the use of Measure FF or other funds to clean up under the six referenced Eucalyptus groves as soon as possible, hopefully this spring.

-Make a visual survey of the groves in question to confirm HFSG's assessment as may be necessary for The City's purposes. Formal inspections should not be required as the conditions under the groves are easily observable from the street.

-Notify the approximately 100 private property owners who collectively constitute the six groves that the City will clean up their properties using public funds. This notice would include a consent form to access these properties to conduct the cleanup and would also state that, if the property owner does not grant consent, the City will require the property owner to perform the cleanup at their own expense or face fines, as is authorized under California law.

-Create contracts with private tree and landscape contractors to perform the cleanup. HFSG has already defined and mapped the risks so there is no need to burden the Fire Department with this work. The cleanup would be guided by what is known as a "Healthy Forest Operation," i.e., removing all flammable debris from the ground, stripping off the loose bark to a height of 15 feet from the ground, removing saplings and low branches to 15 feet, and removing subordinate trees that could ignite the canopies. We estimate this work can be accomplished within weeks for \$100,000 to \$200,000.

These actions will essentially eliminate one of the two catastrophic fire risks facing the City, that of a ground fire climbing into Eucalyptus canopies in Diablo winds, sending tons of embers and flaming debris into the City and potentially burning all the way to the Bay.

In our letter to Fire Chief Roman and Fire Chief May dated October 27, 2021, we made our initial request to clean up the groves on private property using Measure FF funds. We modified our request in December 2021 and in January 2022 to ask that the DFSC recommend the use of Measure FF funds to clean up the groves, and to utilize private tree and landscape contractors, rather than the Fire Department, to do this work, recognizing Fire Department's resource constraints (see Attachment 1).

In our letter to you dated February 9, 2022, we summarized the catastrophic fire risks facing the City of Berkeley, the work our organization is doing, the steps that UC Berkeley (UCB) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) are already taking or have committed to take on their properties, the work the City Parks Department is already doing to clean up the Eucalyptus groves in City parks, and our previous requests to the DFSC to address the threat in the privately-owned groves. In that letter, we asked you for your support and action (see Attachment 2).

On February 23, 2022, we made a presentation to the DFSC requesting that the Commission immediately recommend to the City Council that Measure FF funds be used this spring to clean up the six Eucalyptus groves on private property. We subsequently met with Fire Department leadership to present and discuss these recommendations. We recommended a 3-phase action plan that would first clean up under the Eucalyptus trees; then address the second catastrophic fire risk, a fire in the wind coming out of Tilden or Wildcat Canyon Park and igniting the Eucalyptus trees in the City of Berkeley, by removing the trees and revegetating with Live Oak; and third, implementing ongoing maintenance. This letter applies only to the first of these three phases, that of cleaning up the groves (see Attachment 3).

We have found many examples of public funds being used on private property where there is a public benefit. Examples will be provided by HFSG upon request. Measure FF was passed by voters by a supermajority to fund, in part, the reduction of fire risk. The tons of flammable debris sitting under the Eucalyptus groves in question creates a significant risk of a catastrophic fire that could destroy much of Berkeley and take many lives. Experts from the US Forest Service and the Forest Science Division of UC Berkeley's Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management concur.

Our group has located and counted every Eucalyptus tree and grove in the Northside Hill Area. Two leading forestry experts have confirmed the threat posed by the understory debris in these groves. We have given private tours to view the groves. We have assembled a library of maps, photographs and videos of the groves. We have worked with UCB and LBNL to plan and conduct the cleanup of the groves on their properties. Council Member Wengraf has worked with the City Manager and the Directors of the Parks and Public Works department to plan and conduct the cleanup of Eucalyptus groves on city properties. We have cleaned up a significant portion of the most dangerous Eucalyptus grove **ourselves**, with over 200 UC Berkeley student volunteers and community members on six different occasions, utilizing the Fire Fuel Chipper and Debris Bin Program out of season with the cooperation of the City of Berkeley. We are grateful for that partnership.

If commitments by UCB, LBNL, and the Parks Department are fulfilled, all the Eucalyptus groves in the Northside Hill Area will be cleaned up this spring, **except** the six groves that span approximately 100 private properties. It is time now for The City to address this threat.

We are aware that the Fire Department is in the process of engaging a consultant to conduct a study of the fire risks facing the City of Berkeley and to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. However, there is absolutely no reason to wait for the consultant's study before acting on this request.

-We have already identified the threat from tons of flammable Eucalyptus debris, saplings, and low limbs under the Eucalyptus groves in question.

-Every person who has taken the one-hour tour to see these conditions has expressed shock that nothing has been done to remove this threat.

-Two PhD forestry experts have confirmed that a ground fire can easily climb into the Eucalyptus canopies. This is how the Tunnel fire spread, with far more dangerous conditions in Berkeley today.

And, there is no reason **not** to use Measure FF funds to address this risk.

-There are many precedents to use public funds on private property.

-This is exactly what the voters passed and expected.

-Requiring 100 property owners to bear the cost of removing a risk to the entire City of Berkeley through no fault of their own would be unfair, inefficient and most importantly, take too long.

If there is an impediment or delay in authorizing the use of Measure FF for this purpose, please use other funds. This is an emergency that needs to be treated as such before a large part of the City of Berkeley burns, and many lives are lost. We are **already** in the fire season.

We thank you for your immediate consideration and action.

HAB Board Members and HFSG Leaders,
on behalf of 2,500 plus residents and the entire City of Berkeley,

Henry DeNero, President, HAB and HFSG
Cynthia Chen, Treasurer
Allan Gatzke
Benay Dara-Abrams
Nancy Gillette, PhD
Kathleen Kelly
Sondra Schlesinger, PhD
Tom Umeda

Marcus von Engel, Vice President
Pam Gleason, Past President
Alec Dara-Abrams
Kevin Galvin
Annie Johnson
Peter Lydon
Holly Singh

Attachments:

1. 2021-10-21 Letter to Chief Roman and Chief May
2. 2022-2-9 Letter to Mayor Arreguín, City Council, City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley, Fire Chief Roman, and Disaster & Fire Safety Commission Chair Bedolla
3. 2022-2-23 Presentation by HFSG to DFSC



October 27, 2021

Chief Abraham Roman, aroman@cityofberkeley.info

Chief Keith May, kmay@cityofberkeley.info

Request to Eliminate a Major Fire Risk with Measure FF Funds
Berkeley Hillside Fire Safety Group

Dear Chiefs,

This is a request by the Berkeley Hillside Fire Safety Group (HFSG) to prioritize a cleaning up of the Eucalyptus groves on private property in the North Berkeley Hills, utilizing Measure FF funds. The request includes a brief description of our organization and its activities, a summary of particular fire risk that we are seeking to address, and a list of requested actions by the Fire Department and The City of Berkeley. We believe this request should become the primary fire risk mitigation focus of the Fire Department and the City over the next year, taking priority over the existing broad-based inspection program.

Who We Are

The Berkeley Hillside Fire Safety Group is an all-volunteer group of neighbors with 13 leaders. Our organization represents an area from the northern boundary of UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Labs campuses to an area about ½ mile to the north along Codornices and Glendale-La Loma Parks; and from Euclid Avenue on the west to about halfway up the hill to Tilden Park on the east. The area consists of about 750 addresses and well over 2,000 residents.

Our mission is: Neighbors working together to mitigate risk and increase our fire safety through preparedness. This mission includes risk assessment in our neighborhood and in the area to the east, community education, evacuation preparedness, and actual fuel reduction. We organized last year under the existing Hillside Association of Berkeley, a 501c3.

Our group has worked well in cooperation with The City of Berkeley, UC Berkeley, and Lawrence Berkeley National Labs to prioritize and conduct fuel reduction efforts that have augmented the ongoing efforts of these institutions.

In addition to community outreach, our efforts have included a fuel reduction campaign in cooperation with UC Berkeley student groups and The City of Berkeley called “Keep the Red Out.” We have conducted three Keep the Red Out events to date with over 100 students and are planning several more such events. Our focus is to remove debris from the Eucalyptus groves along the boundary between UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Labs, and the residential community. Our work to date has been focused in the canyon closest to the residential area that we call “Hidden Canyon,” because it cannot be seen from any street.

Fuel is also being removed, or will soon be removed, by Lawrence Berkeley Labs, UC Berkeley, and several private residents on their respective properties in and around Hidden Canyon, and in the groves immediately up hill to the east. We refer to the Eucalyptus groves that extend from Hidden Canyon uphill though Lawrence Berkeley National Labs to an area below The Hall of Science as “The Line of Fire.” We consider The Line of Fire to be the single greatest catastrophic fire risk in Berkeley (and perhaps in the State).

A Particular Fire Risk

There are a limited number of Eucalyptus trees on residential property in the Northside Berkeley Hills. These trees are concentrated in a small number of groves spanning multiple private lots. Inspecting these lots and “requiring” homeowners to clean up their properties one at a time could take years. Yet, these groves pose an imminent threat to the City, a threat that extends far beyond the hill area itself. The cleanup of these groves represents a “public good” and is therefore a legitimate use of taxpayer money. This is why we believe the clean up of these groves should be the City’s top fire risk mitigation priority. We are recommending that the Fire Department and the City authorize the clean up of all these Eucalyptus groves using Measure FF funds that were approved by taxpayers for this purpose.

A survey of the Northside Berkeley Hills by the Hillside Fire Safety Group indicates that there are only about 900 Eucalyptus trees in the entire hill area. Over 95 percent of these trees are concentrated in 15 groves ranging in size from 10 to 100 trees. Six of these groves are on UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories property along the boundary between these institutions and the residential area. UC Berkeley and Berkeley Labs are both moving rapidly to conduct Safe Forest Operations in these groves. Two of the groves are on City property, Glendale-La Loma Park and Remillard Park. This leaves only seven groves on private property that account for over half of the Eucalyptus trees in the area. All of these groves span multiple private lots, totaling about 72 private properties. It is these groves that the Fire Department and the City should take immediate action to clean up, along with the two City parks.

To learn more about the 15 Eucalyptus groves and the locations of smaller clusters and single trees, refer to the map on our website at:

www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1zUZowfjNBLGGD2M92bLsDSOc-0MoFfIR&usp=sharing

Recommended Actions

Given the imminent and potentially catastrophic risk described above, we recommend the following actions:

- The Fire Department would immediately inspect & survey the properties that comprise the seven private groves identified by the HFSG in order to confirm the fire danger and to scope the needed clean up work. The City and Fire Department would shift the current focus of inspecting all private lots in North Berkeley to assessing these 72 properties that account for essentially all of the Eucalyptus trees on private property in the area.

- Following the Fire Department’s confirmation of this survey, the Fire Department would then work with the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and the City Council to authorize the use of Measure FF funds to clean up these groves on an expedited bases, with or without the property owner’s financial support.

- Property owners would be asked to sign a simple waiver to allow contractors hired by the City to access their properties. Property owners who do not sign the waiver would be informed that they would be required to clean up the property at their own expense. If necessary, a simple means test could be applied to determine if a homeowner should fund or partially fund the clean up on her or his property, but such a means test would in no way slow the process of cleaning up the groves.

- In subsequent years, all property owners would be required to maintain their properties at their own expense.

- Whether paid for by the City or the property owner, the clean up would include the basic elements of a Safe Forest Operation: clearing the debris from the ground, removing limbs and saplings up 15 feet, and stripping the loose bark from the trees up 15 feet.

With the use of public funds, and with activities already underway by UC Berkeley and Berkeley Labs, it is our belief that essentially all of the Eucalyptus groves in North Berkeley can be cleaned up before the 2022 fire season. To do this, the City and the Fire Department would need to place this effort at the top of its fire risk mitigation priority list.

* * *

In summary, there are only two ways by which a catastrophic firestorm can sweep through the Berkeley Hills in a Diablo Wind event, both involving Eucalyptus trees. One is by a fire on the ground climbing the trees and igniting the Eucalyptus canopies. The other is from embers in the wind coming out of Tilden Park igniting the canopies in the residential area. The ground clean up of all the groves in the residential area and along the UC Berkeley and Berkeley Labs boundary will essentially eliminate one of these two risks. And this can be done immediately and with limited resources. This is one of the greatest fire risks to the City of Berkeley, and perhaps the entire State. Because eliminating this risk would be of benefit to the entire City, use of Measure FF funds is appropriate and is consistent with the taxpayers' intent when passing the measure. We urge the Fire Department and the City to treat this treat like the emergency that it is.

Sincerely,

Pam Gleason, President
 Benay Dara-Abrams
 Alec Dara-Abrams
 Cynthia Chen
 Kathleen Kelly
 Allan Gatzke
 Kevin Galvin
 Marty Lorber
 Tom Umeda
 Marcus von Engel
 Peter Lydon
 Sondra Schlesinger
 Henry DeNero

Copies to:

Susan Wengraf
 Berkeley Disaster and Fire Commission



February 9, 2022

Dear Mayor Arreguín, Berkeley City Council, City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley, Fire Chief Roman, and Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Commissioner Jose Bedolla,

We would like to draw your attention to the attached annual report of the Hillside Association of Berkeley (HAB) and Hillside Fire Safety Group (HFSG). This report was sent to the members of HAB and HFSG, representing over 1,000 addresses and an estimated 2,500 residents or more. The report includes a summary of our interactions regarding fire safety with the City of Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) and UC Berkeley (UCB). For your reference, we also attached a map of the hazardous Eucalyptus groves located in the North Berkeley hills.

HFSG's primary focus in 2021, and again now in 2022, is to reduce the risk of a catastrophic firestorm, killing dozens of people and destroying much of the City, by cleaning up the grounds and understory beneath the Eucalyptus groves in North Berkeley shown on the attached map. By "cleaning up," we mean clearing debris from the ground, removing saplings, low limbs, subordinate trees, and understory, and stripping off loose bark from the trees 15 feet up from the ground. These steps, known as a "Healthy Forest Operation," are designed to prevent a fire on the ground from climbing into the canopy and creating a disastrous firestorm in a Diablo Wind condition. A fire on the ground igniting the Eucalyptus canopy is one of two ways such a catastrophe can occur, the second being a fire in the wind coming out of Tilden Park. The only way to prevent the second cause would be to remove the Eucalyptus trees from this area. HFSG has focused on the ground clean up first because it is inexpensive, easy to accomplish, and most importantly, it removes one of the two primary risks to the citizens of Berkeley.

As you will see in the report, we have made significant progress toward the goal of cleaning up under the groves along the northern boundary of the LBNL and UCB campuses. This is an area that we call "The Line of Fire." These groves are located along the lower portion of the attached map. With the cooperation and efforts of LBNL and UCB, the cleanup of this area is already underway, and the remainder will be completed this winter and spring.

In 2021, HFSG also funded and conducted six cleanup events with over 200 UC Berkeley student volunteers in the lower portion of the grove we refer to as the "LBNL Hidden Canyon." HFSG will fund and conduct several more such events this winter and spring to complete the cleanup on LBNL and private property in this canyon. HFSG will also work with private landowners to clean up the remainder of the private side of Hidden Canyon and the private portion of the grove, labeled on the map, "Private End of Campus."

LBNL has already cleaned up the upper portion of Hidden Canyon. Todd LaBerge, LBNL's Fire Marshall, has indicated his intent to begin biennial maintenance this spring in Hidden Canyon and in the grove that we call "LBNL Grove" that lies inside LBNL's fence line.

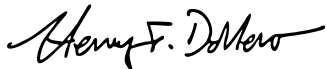
UCB's Head of Operations, Felix Deleon, has indicated his plan to clean up the four groves on UCB land this spring. They are identified on the map as: UCB Centennial N-E, UCB Centennial S-E, UCB Vista Lot and UCB End of Campus.

If these steps are accomplished, our partnership with UCB and LBNL, along with our own efforts, will have removed one of the most significant catastrophic fire risks facing the City of Berkeley—that of a fire on the ground climbing into the canopy of these groves in a Diablo Wind condition, sending tons of embers across the city, into the residential neighborhoods and possibly resulting in one of the most disastrous fires in US history.

One other significant activity that began late in the summer of 2021, has been to seek the agreement of the City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) as we advocate for the use of Measure FF tax funds to clean up the other groves in North Berkeley that are on private property and in two City parks. There are eight groves of fifteen Eucalyptus trees or more, totaling approximately 510 Eucalyptus trees in these groves, plus another twenty-five trees in smaller groups. We have asked, without success, that Measure FF funds be used to clean up under all these trees immediately, before the 2022 fire season.

We ask that you review the attached report as we continue to seek action from The City on this urgent matter. The residents of Berkeley voted overwhelmingly to tax themselves to fund fire prevention activities. We hope some of these funds can be used in a timely manner to clean up this Eucalyptus threat before we face another season of Diablo Winds. No one in Berkeley is safe.

Thank you and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry F. DeNero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Henry DeNero
President, HAB and HFSG
henry@berkeleyhillsidefiresafety.org
(626) 253-2773

DFSC Presentation - Hillside Fire Safety Group

Discussion Agenda

- Risk Assessment
- Inventory of Groves and Trees
- Catastrophic Scenarios
- Recommended Plan of Action
- Use of Measure FF
- Videos of Progress

DFSC Meeting

- February 23, 2022
- Zoom Meeting

1

HFSG Risk Assessment

The Eucalyptus tree is uniquely dangerous

- It is extremely flammable
- It produces 10X the debris of other species
- A fire on the ground can quickly climb the tree into the canopy
- Winds carry flaming embers faster and wider than other tree species

Berkeley is particularly vulnerable with approximately 950 eucalyptus trees in our North Berkeley Hill Area (the Northside)

- Six groves on UCB & LBNL property along "The Line of Fire" (415 trees)
- Six groves on 98 private lots (470 trees)
- Two groves in City parks (40 trees)
- Two street side City locations (4 trees)
- Seven small groups on nine other private lots (30 trees)

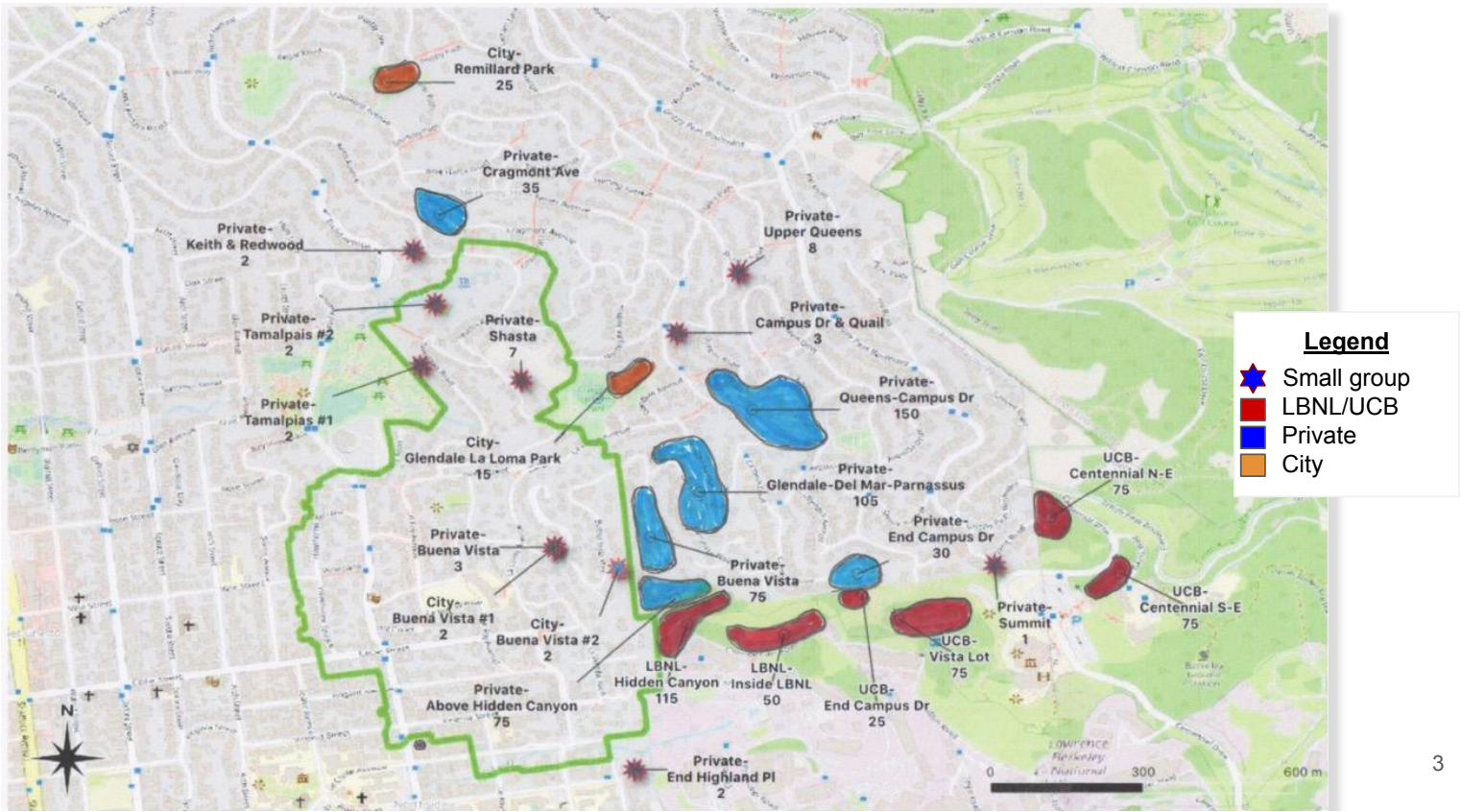
Cleaning up under the Eucalyptus trees is an essential first step because it eliminates one of two ways that a catastrophic canopy fire can start- a fire on the ground climbing the trees

- Clear all debris from the ground
- Strip loose bark 15 feet up from the ground
- Remove saplings, low branches, and subordinate trees

The only way to eliminate the second cause of a catastrophic canopy fire from the Eucalyptus trees - embers in the wind - is to remove the trees

2

North Berkeley Eucalyptus



3



Conditions on the Ground



Source: Henry DeNero

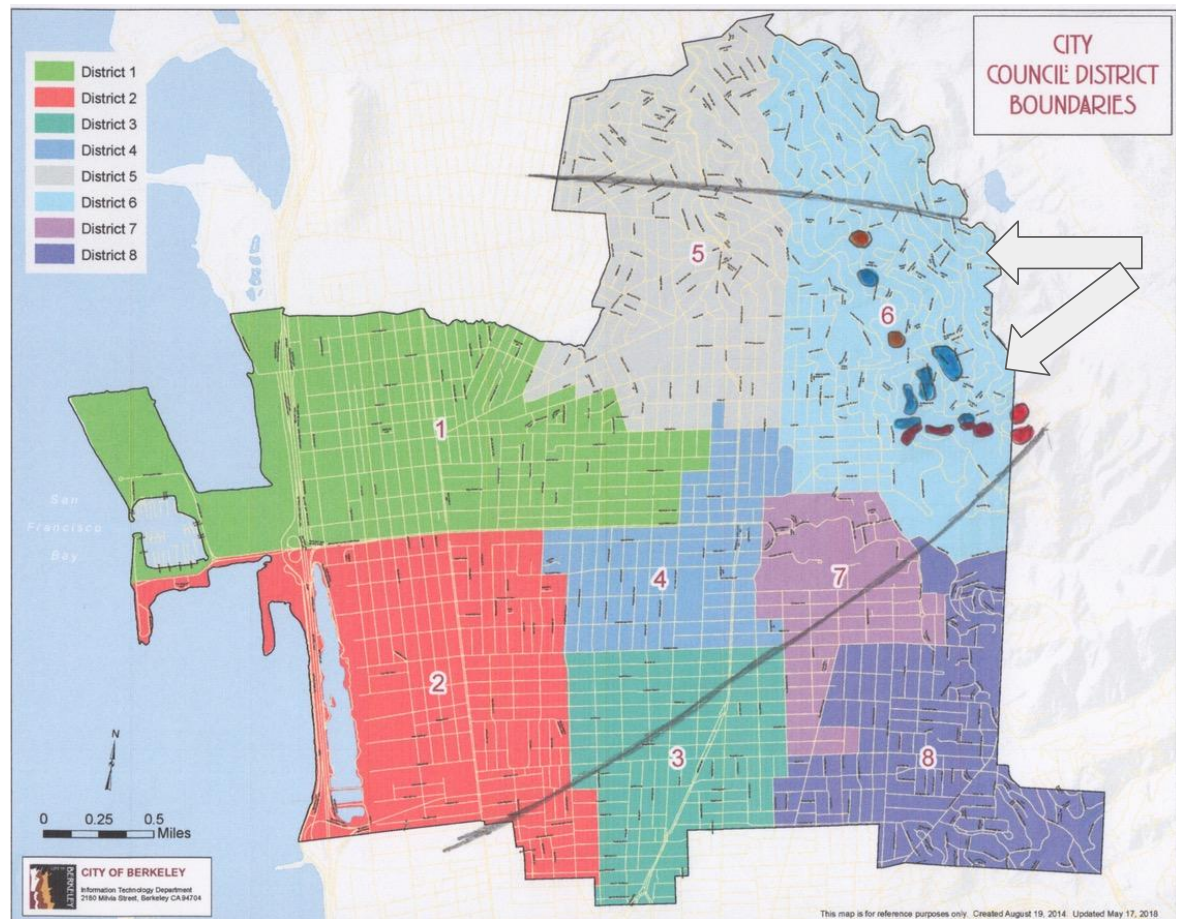
4

Catastrophic Scenario-

A Canopy Fire Driven by the Diablo Wind

“A fire on the Hill could burn all the way to the Bay”

- Former Fire Chief Brannigan



5

Recommended Plan of Action

We recommend that The City of Berkeley adopt an action plan in three overlapping phases designed to **remove the threat of a catastrophic fire storm taking dozens of lives and destroying much of the City**

1. **Phase 1: This winter and spring. Clean up under ALL Eucalyptus trees on the northside, using Measure FF to clean up both City and private properties**

Note: The Parks Department has committed to clean up in the two parks; and both LBNL and UCB have committed to clean up their groves.

2. **Phase 2: 2022 to 2024. Remove all of the approximately 545 Eucalyptus trees on the northside on City and private property, again using Measure FF**

Note: LBNL is seeking \$2.9 Million from Cal Fire to remove all 1,500 Eucalyptus trees on its property. We have asked UCB to remove the Eucalyptus trees on its property along The Line of Fire

3. **Phase 3: 2022 to 2027. Address other fire risks**

- Continue the Fire Department's existing home-hardening program
- Mandate ongoing maintenance
- Redline exit routes and narrow streets

Note: We will ask UCB to remove all Eucalyptus trees from its property. We will ask the Regional Parks Authority to remove all Eucalyptus trees from Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Parks; then to begin removing all flammable ground debris

6

Why Use Measure FF

- It was passed **overwhelmingly** by the voters to reduce fire risk
- There can be **no greater fire risk** than the Eucalyptus trees and groves on the northside
- Cleaning up under and then removing the Eucalyptus trees can be accomplished in two to three years for a **fraction of one year's** Measure FF taxpayer funds
- The risk is a **clear public danger**; arguably greater than all others, including the Hayward Fault
- There is **strong precedent** for using public funds on private property when it is for a public good
- It is **unfair** to force 100 homeowners to bear the cost of saving a large portion of the City from a catastrophic event
- Even if it was fair to require private property owners to bear the cost, it would take too long to go through the process. **This threat needs to be removed now, before the catastrophe occurs**

7

We have made some progress

HFSG conducted six events with over 200 UC Berkeley student volunteers and the use of The City's Chipper Bin to remove eucalyptus bark and debris from "Hidden Canyon," arguably the most dangerous location in Berkeley and perhaps the State

LBNL hired a tree contractor to clean up their side of the upper canyon

Together, half the canyon has been cleared and is now grasses, rather than a thick layer of highly flammable debris

We plan to continue these events pending City action to clean up the groves



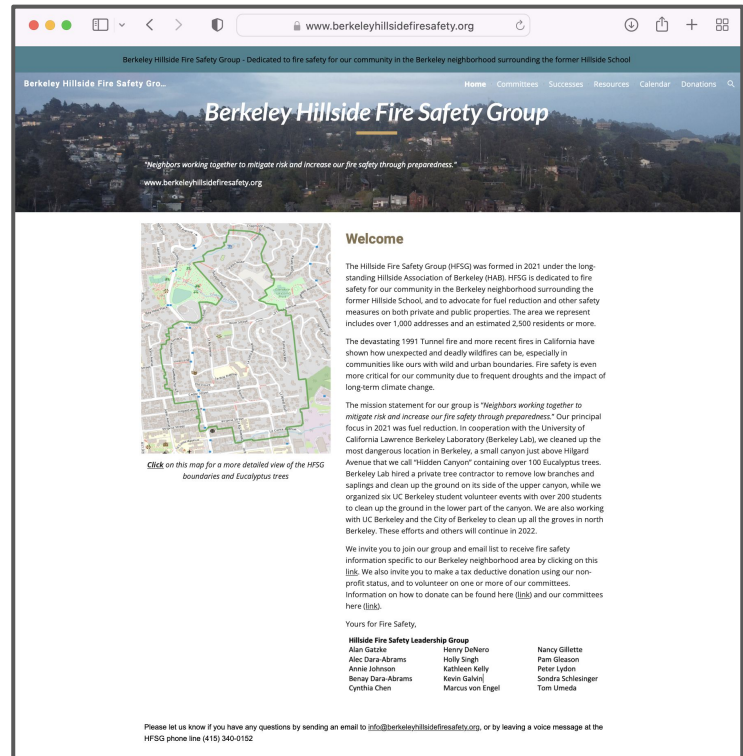
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HFSG Public Service Information

Please visit our website for more details:

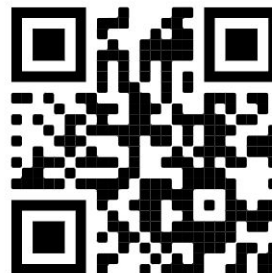
- Videos of our accomplishments
- Information on our committees
- Maps
- Donation Information
- Research Library

Videos of the HFSG work can be viewed here:



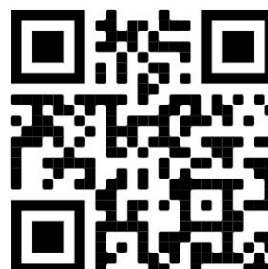
Before (2019):

<https://youtu.be/6ZH-nO2UeLE>



After (2022):

<https://youtu.be/qQ26T97eo6U>



HFSG thanks you for your support!

HFSG is dedicated to fire safety for our community in the Berkeley neighborhood surrounding the former Hillside School, and to advocate for fuel reduction and other safety measures on both private and public properties.

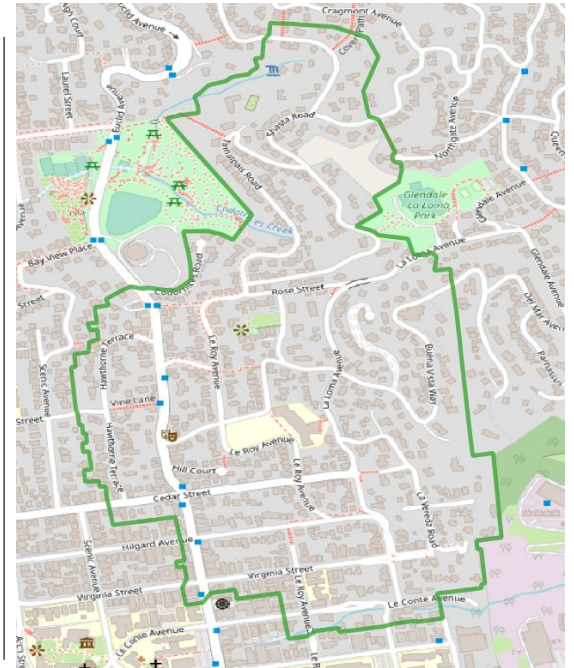
The area we represent includes over 1,000 addresses and an estimated 2,500 residents.

For more information about the Hillside Fire Safety Group please complete our contact information form and visit our website:

HFSG Web: www.berkeleyhillsidefiresafety.org

HFSG Email: info@berkeleyhillsidefiresafety.org

HFSG Voice: (415) 340-0152



Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

Draft WORK PLAN – (FY 2023-2024)

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 policy positions requiring Measure GG and Measure FF funding. The ultimate goal of the Commission is to increase community safety, resilience, and education for community disaster preparedness. The commission also reviews and makes recommends on items referred by the City Council or other Commissions.

Summary of FY 2022-2023 Work Plan Activities

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Outputs</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>
1	Oversight of measure GG and FF Funds according to legal requirements	Commission and staff	Review approved budget versus spent on a quarterly or monthly basis	Provide annual budget recommendations to City Council Provide a quarterly memo based on results of budget reports Track recommendations through the City review process	A. Ensure that Fire Stations remain open (GG) and provide a gap spend for personnel. B. Improvement of City resilience via emergency preparedness, and reduction of wildfire risk (FF) and City-wide hardening.
2	Home hardening – vegetation inspection – building envelope	Commission and staff time	Review inspection program and implementation	Provide inputs to annual program targets based on approved annual budget Provide monthly input Provide code recommendations as needed to Fire Marshal or Building Department for home hardening	A. Ensure a systematic and consistent approach to inspections across the community B. Ensure best practices and code including home hardening recommendations

**Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Draft WORK PLAN – (FY 2023-2024)**

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Outputs</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>
3 Wildland-urban interface (WUI)	Commission and staff time, interface and coordination with City departments	Provide input to annual vegetation program including goals, funding, and process. Come up with approved target areas as part of an annual plan.	Use a systematic approach to address vegetation management in WUI areas Coordinate with Parks & Recreation on approved target areas Promote private entity efforts	A. Reduction of overall vegetation that could fuel a fire within City limits B. Coordinating City wide efforts C. Coordination of private efforts
4 Safe passages	Commission and staff time, interface and coordination with City departments	Restart the Safe Passages program Mobilize CERT volunteers Reach out to community groups	Develop recommendations on parking restrictions and red curb restrictions, notification and alerts, and evacuation planning Propose budget from City funding sources	A. Develop a plan for Safe Passages of people in case of emergency B. Coordinate City wide emergency efforts
5 Community Outreach	Staff and commission time.	Education to the public on disaster and fire safety programs Coordinate with private groups Coordination and inclusion with BFD personnel	Develop an annual program and outreach process Schedule information sessions across the City Solicit input for programs and goals	A. Inform the community of the issues, programs and goals B. Solicit community input
6 City Outreach	Commissioner time, staff time.	Provide input to City Commissions Provide input to City leaders	Inform City commissions of DFSC plans Provide input in open forums Respond to referrals	A. Ensure communications with the City officials

**Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Draft WORK PLAN – (FY 2023-2024)**

Budget recommendations in support of plan

Project	Project FY23-\$	FY23-%
1. Budgeting Support - Temporary	\$ 150,000	2%
2. Home Hardening & Inspection		
Inspection program		
Code recommendations		
Additional support staff	\$ 1,000,000	12%
3. Wildland Urban Interface		
Retired Annuitants & Support Staff		
Vegetation Management, Safe Passages & Inspections	\$ 2,000,000	24%
4. Safe Passages Program		
Red curbing		
Restart the Safe Passages program		
Mobilize CERT volunteers		
Reach out to community groups		
Outdoor Warning System & Evacuation Drills	\$ 1,150,000	14%
5. Community Outreach		
Education to the public on disaster and fire safety programs		
Coordinate with private groups		
Coordination and inclusion with BFD personnel	\$ 500,000	6%
6 Program Coordination & Administration / City Outreach		
• Standards of Coverage Analysis & Report		
• Program Management Contract	\$ 600,000	7%
7. Emergency Medical Response		
• Additional Ambulances & Staff		
• EMS Administration & Support Staff	\$ 2,100,000	25%
Not part of plan		
8. Paramedic Tax Deficit		
Not part of plan	\$ 700,000	8%
9. Other (Includes: HazMat & Tech Rescue funding)	\$ 300,000	4%
Not part of plan		
Total FY22	\$ 8,500,000	100%

**Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Draft WORK PLAN – (FY 2023-2024)**