

AGENDA
Disaster Fire and Safety Commission
August 4, 2021
7:00 PM

District 1 –	District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet	District 6 – Nancy Rader
District 3 – Gradiva Couzin	District 7 – Robert Simmons
District 4 – Antoinette Stein	District 8 – Paul Degenkolb

Mayor’s Appointee- Jose Luis Bedolla

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

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, the August 4, 2021 meeting of the Disaster, Fire and Safety Commission will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order and the Shelter-in-Place Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, there will not be a physical meeting location available.

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83440946605> 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 834 4094 6605. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. Please be mindful that all other rules of procedure and decorum will apply for Commission meetings conducted by teleconference or videoconference*

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Fire Department Staff Report

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of June 23, 2021*

Action Items

3. Recommendation on Financial Reporting and Process (Degenkolb) *

Berkeley Fire/OES 2100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel. 510.981-3473 TDD: 510 981-5799
E-mail: fire@ci.berkeley.ca.us

4. Enforcement of Existing Parking Rules and Regulations (Bedolla)*
5. Long Range Development Plan for UC Berkeley (Bedolla)*

Discussion Items

6. City Budget Approval Including Measure GG
7. Berkeley Fire Code Updates (Staff)
8. Commission Home Page Resource List (Staff)
9. Letter from the Oakland Fire Safe Council on Senate Bill 9 and Senate Bill 10*
10. Wildfire Joint Powers Agency for East Bay*
11. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Volunteer Involvement

Adjournment

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday June 23, 2021

Present: Gradiva Couzin, Toby Simmons, Jose Luis Bedolla, Paul Degenkolb, Shirley Dean, Weldon Bradstreet, Nancy Rader, Toni Stein

Absent:

Staff: Keith May, Khin Chin, Abraham Roman, David Sprague, David McPartland

Public: 4 Attendees: Brad, Chris Cullander, Richard Thomason, Kelly Hammargren

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

J. Bedolla called meeting to order at 7:00pm

Approval of the Agenda

Move Item 12 after of Item 5

Withdraw Item 3

Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Gradiva Couzin said that Berkeley Mutual Aid is developing a Fire Buddies program to support seniors in being better ready for wildfire.

1. Fire Department Staff Report

Over the past month we had a couple of encampment fires and a couple of small structures fires.

There was a significant vehicle accident where an occupant became pulseless and was not breathing. Bystander CPR was initiated by 2 City of Berkeley from the Hopkins pool and an off-duty Santa Clara FF/PM. They continued CPR and used the automatic defibrillator from the pool facility. The patient was alert and speaking when the ambulance arrived at the ER.

Vision 2050 was announced by Mayor Arreguin back in 2017. The Vision 2050 report recommended three guiding principles and five strategies to improve Berkeley's

infrastructure. Strategy 3 is to adopt sustainable and safe technologies. Action item 3E recommends the preparation of a Wildfire Mitigation and Safety Plan. This item was recommended due the devastating wildland fires in California in the past 5+ years and the concern for a wildland urban interface fire in Berkeley.

The proposed project is to organize Berkeley's wildfire mitigation and fire safety activities into one report and to have an implementation plan that is prioritized and achievable. Project team includes Ray Yep, Victoria Legg, staff from Fire, Public Works, and Planning.

Zonehaven officially launched the public facing portal on June 15.

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of May 26, 2021*

Motion to approve the minutes as revised: Dean

Second: Degenkolb

Vote: 8 Ayes: Couzin, Dean, Bradstreet, Degenkolb, Bedolla, Rader, Simmons, Stein; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain.

Action Items

3. Fire Department Raising More Funding (Dean)

Item withdrawn.

4. Recommendation on Senate Bill 12 (Rader)

Motion to recommend that City of Berkeley support Senate Bill 12: Rader

Second: Couzin

Vote: 2 Ayes: Couzin, Rader; 2 Noes: Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Absent; 4 Abstain: Bedolla, Dean, Simmons, Bradstreet.

Motion failed

Discussion Items

5. Measure GG and Measure FF Workplan for Fiscal Year 2021
6. Commission Home Page Resource List (Staff)
7. Update on Memorandum of Understanding on Grizzly Peak Blvd (Fire Department)
8. Outdoor Warning System Update (Staff)

9. Venue for Commission Meetings (Bedolla)
10. OES Plans For CERT/Volunteer Integration
11. Update on Cerritos Canyon (Couzin)
12. Recommendation on Financial Reporting and Process (Degenkolb)
13. Parking Restrictions and Emergency Vehicle Access (Bedolla)
14. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Tsunami Map
 - b. Vision 2050 Volunteer
 - c. CEQA
 - d. Transfer Tax for Home Hardening
 - e. Live Transcription

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Dean

Second: Stein

Vote: 8 Ayes: Couzin, Dean, Bradstreet, Degenkolb, Bedolla, Rader, Simmons, Stein; 0
Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain.

Adjourned at 9:58p



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

ACTION CALENDAR

[Date]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: Jose Bedolla, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: Extending the Requirements for Telestaff Time Reporting

RECOMMENDATION

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) recommends that the Berkeley Fire Department require that all overtime recorded for Fire Suppression be coded properly in the Telestaff application to show the reason for the overtime. Further, when determining what overtime is eligible to be charged to Measure GG as “Minimum Staffing” must be properly coded as supporting minimum staffing. (Currently, this would be code 00FS10 and 00FS11). This would not affect charges for Measure GG approved time or overtime.

In addition, we recommend that in any future reports to the DFSC on Measure GG budget that the report include a breakdown of the time by labor purpose of both regular and overtime.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Utilizing the purpose codes for minimum staffing should significantly reduce the time required to properly determine the overtime charges which can be legitimately charged to Measure GG.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Currently, the tendency is to report a large percentage of worked overtime to Measure GG. The DFSC believes that much of this overtime is not demonstrably in alignment with the intent of the measure resulting in overcharges to the Measure GG Budget. As a partial result, the funds for measure GG support to the Berkeley Fire Department are in danger of running out without meeting all of the intended purposes intended by the measure.

BACKGROUND

The DFSC has sent several previous recommendations or communications to City Council to discuss what the commission saw as excess charges to the Measure GG fund. The feeling of the commission has been, and still is, that more overtime is being charged to the Measure GG accounts than is actually justifiable.

In the past the claim has been made that the accounting system was not adequate to properly separate out the overtime required for minimum staffing. However, the current system both has the ability to track this time with more accuracy and the ability to extract reports based on that tracking. At the time of this writing, the supervisors are apparently not coding overtime assignments in Telestaff, however that coding is both possible and fairly easy.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There is no environmental impact to this recommendation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Measure GG clearly specifies what the funds generated by the voter approved tax were to be used for. In the past the excuse that our accounting system was not up to properly tracking that information provided an impetus to charge all fire suppression overtime as applicable to Measure GG. With the new accounting system, that rationale is no longer valid. As such, improper charges of overtime to Measure GG has become a matter of misappropriation of public funds. This recommendation is intended to make it easier to properly separate out charges that are appropriate to the intent of the Measure GG tax.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

While previous recommendations have been made, none have been practical until now.

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."

CONTACT PERSON

Keith May, Secretary, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, 510-981-5508



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

ACTION CALENDAR

[Date]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: Jose Bedolla, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: Parking Enforcement in Fire Zones

RECOMMENDATION

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) recommends that Berkeley Police department enforce existing Berkeley Municipal Code in all Fire Zones. The notion of “Safe Passages” only works if there is a safe passage or egress from Fire Zones. Further, enforcing existing code provides the Fire Department with the means to respond to emergencies effectively. Berkeley’s transportation web page states “During the October 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Hills Fire, many of the streets were impassable to fire trucks.” While the code is there, there is minimal enforcement; that creates the risk of another possible tragedy. By enforcing existing code, the City of Berkeley has an opportunity to serve all of its residents by incentivizing individuals to do the right thing, build a culture that prepares for emergency response and returns the use of public spaces (our sidewalks) to public use.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Enforcing existing parking code with existing pool of enforcement personnel should have minimal to no impact since there will likely be as many enforcement actions as there are in other locations in the City.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Currently, there are tendencies for residents to park on sidewalks, which is prohibited by code¹. There is a culture of double-parking that continues due to a lack of consequence (**Exhibit 1**, Pictures of various locations in Fire Zones). Double parking seems to be a result of streets not having been designed to accommodate modern vehicles (**Exhibit 2**, Streets widths of >10 and <26). Alarmingly, even on Marin Avenue, which is supposed to be an Safe Passage street, there were vehicles parked in red zones. The effect is that sidewalks are blocked for pedestrians and wheelchair users. Many streets do not seem to support two way traffic, much less a Berkeley Fire Department Fire Engine. This benign neglect open us up to another tragedy like the Oakland / Berkeley fire in 1991.

¹ <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=8272>

Exhibit 1 (select pictures taken on 7/28/2021 ~12:30 PM)



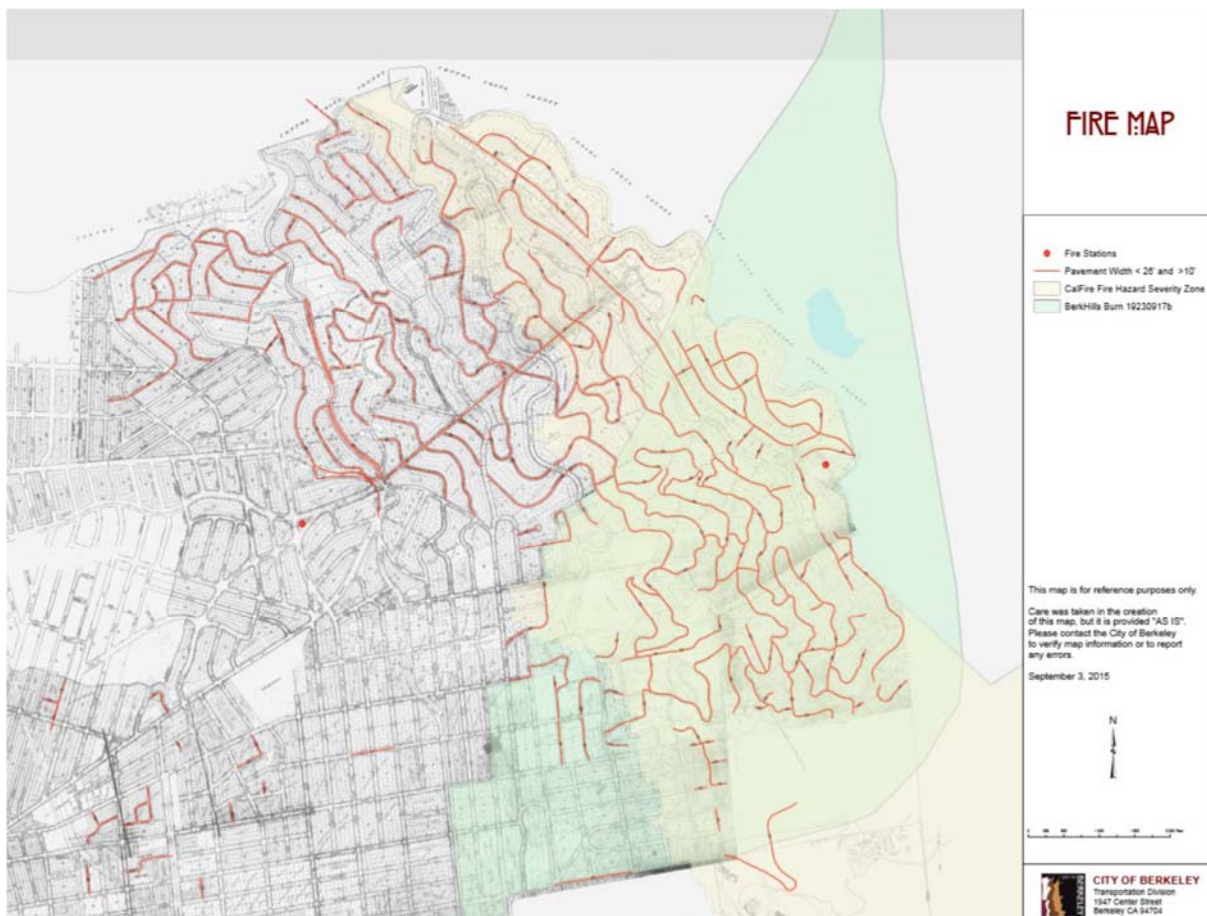
Los Angeles

Quail

Keefer

Thousand Oaks

Exhibit 2



[Date]

BACKGROUND

The DFSC continues to monitor the existing fires around the state. The largest current fire is the Dixie Fire, which has burned 217,581 acres.² There is a continued concern about the level of preparedness for egress from Berkeley's **Fire Zones 2 and 3**. From a public safety perspective, there could be difficulties due to vehicle blockages. Unfortunately, California leads the country in automobile registrations, with over 27M registered drivers, 30.8M registered vehicles, and 39.5 M in population³, which translates, to 0.78 vehicles per person. This means that Berkeley will have to incentivize individuals to do the right thing and not use a public good for private use. As the City of Berkeley continues its planning process to build more affordable housing, it is imperative that parking and parking enforcement be paramount in its planning. We need to build a culture of fire prevention that allows for emergency vehicles and services access in all parts of the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There is no environmental impact to this recommendation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Parking is always an issue for any City and Berkeley is no exception. However, its unique geography comes with a unique responsibility. Parking on the sidewalks deprives pedestrians, the elderly, families, and wheel chair bound individuals from enjoying our unique geography. Moreover, parking on sidewalks, turnouts, or any possible place is a hindrance for emergency vehicles, cyclists, and other vehicles. The DSFC has recorded a number of examples but it is by no means exhaustive. If there were to be an emergency, Berkeley could find itself in a similar situation as it did in 1991.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Alternatives could be 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 cost and additional community involvement and consultation 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.

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CONTACT PERSON

² <https://www.fireweatheravalanche.org/fire/state/california>

³ US DOT, Department of Transportation Statistics

[Date]

Keith May, Secretary, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, 510-981-5508



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

ACTION CALENDAR

[Date]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: Jose Bedolla, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: UC Berkeley Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

The University of California recently agreed to pay the City of Berkeley \$4 million¹ a year to cover cost expended by the City due to the University's expansion and cost on the City. The funding is intended to 'support fire and city services.' The DSFC recommends that the City administer the funds separately from the general funds and under the supervision of the DSFC similar to FF and GG for the duration of the agreement.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are not fiscal impacts to the recommendation since this is new money above and beyond the current budget allocation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The University of California at Berkeley is expected to increase its enrollment by 33%. This increase will pull resources away from efforts funded by GG and FF such as vegetation management. To compensate for these effects, the DFSC would like the funding line to be made public for the duration of the agreement in a way where the public can provide regular input on its implementation.

BACKGROUND

The DFSC oversees GG and FF in collaboration with the Fire Department and City Administration. These budgets are publically reviewed quarterly and will soon move to monthly. The public is able to comment at a more minute level rather than a citywide level where some of the detail maybe lost.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There is no environmental impact to this recommendation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

¹ <https://www.berkeleyinfo.org/2021/07/14/uc-berkeley-payment-settlement-agreement>

There are public remarks about the rationale for the University of California to pay additional funding. As such, the DFSC would like to ensure that the new funding does in fact go to the intended activity.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

An alternative could be a line item in the general fund. This could serve a similar function but the public would not be able to comment on this piece of the budget or its implementation specifically.

CITY MANAGER

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CONTACT PERSON

Keith May, Secretary, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, 510-981-5508



July 19, 2021

Senator Nancy Skinner
Senate District 9
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2202
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Senator Skinner:

The Oakland Firesafe Council opposes passage of SB 9 and SB 10 as they are now written. We appreciate that SB 10 exempts ADUs in the very high fire severity zone, but the legislation as it now stands only worsens the public safety in the rest of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). It does not address the need for speedy evacuation along the *entire* evacuation route (both very high and high hazard zones), and the fact that even with structures meeting Fire Code for hardened homes, more structures with limited setbacks only add to the fuel load in our fire prone neighborhoods. We ask that you take the lead in amending them to exempt ADUs in both the high and very high fire hazard severity zones in local responsibility and state responsibility areas, and to eliminate the ease with which the exemption can be bypassed with so-called mitigations that have proven to be limited in effectiveness.

We understand that these two bills dealing with accessory dwelling units will be heard by the California Assembly in August. The need for affordable housing in California is very real. At the same time, our state is facing one of the worst fire seasons in memory. Accelerating climate change, increased incidence of high wind and extreme drought threaten the safety of millions of homes located in the state's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

For communities in your district such as Oakland, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Kensington and others, where housing within in these high wildfire risk zones is already dense (Oakland alone has 25,000 properties in its WUI), adding accessory dwelling units—whether one or two, or replacing a single-family home with multiple ADUs---compromises the lives and safety of all WUI residents. These days, wildfires spread rapidly—often enveloping neighborhoods at 1 mile a minute. Timely and safe evacuations in these situations are critical to saving lives.

Unlike more rural WUI communities, cities such as ours are already built out, and our street infrastructure is already in place. All but three of our streets in the Oakland hills are one lane each way and cannot be widened. Some are less than 20 feet wide in total. The success of an evacuation is dependent on moving vehicles through these narrow streets along the entire evacuation route as quickly as possible. The truth is that we already face challenges with the current density and volume of vehicles trying to squeeze through our narrow streets at one time.



Adding more density to an already challenged situation compromises public safety and puts lives at risk. It's not just the impact on evacuation, it also has to do with adding more structures in a situation where the houses themselves add to the combustible fuel load.

It is critical that our state legislators take into account the impact of wildfire on neighborhoods located in the Wildland Urban Interface and the lessons learned from the 1991 Firestorm:

In the suburban and urban setting, the key quantity is the density of houses -- together with the combustible material in these houses -- in determining fuel load and fire behavior. The density of trees, shrubs, and ground cover (grass) may still be important for determination of the fire behavior, but clearly house density is critical.

"Community-Scale Fire Spread", R. Rehm et al., NISTIR 6891, Building and Fire Research Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce, July 2002

The high density of flammable structures contributed significantly to the spread and intensity of the Oakland Hills fire. Trees did play a role in spreading the fire, but in many cases the trees caught fire from the houses, not vice versa.

Task force on Emergency Preparedness & Community Restoration Final Report (Elihu Harris and Loni Hancock, Mayors of Oakland and Berkeley). This was the Mayor's Report on the Oakland Hills Fire.

Buildings should be spaced at least 60 feet apart (minimum 30-foot setback) to minimize risk of exposure to an adjacent structural fire and the conflagration potential of the spread of fire from structure to structure. The 30-foot setback will also allow compliance with Section 4201 Public Resources Code (30-foot clearance requirement).

HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT for the East Bay Fire in the Oakland-Berkeley Hills, FEMA-919-DR-CA

in the first hour it burned 790 structures, each of which scattered new sources of ignition....Before the orgy of burning ended, 3,354 houses and 456 apartments were ash, and 25 people had died. Total area burned amounted to 1600 acres....It was America's worst urban fire disaster since 1906

"California: A Fire Survey", about the 1991 Oakland Hills (Tunnel) Fire. Stephen J. Pyne, University of Arizona Press, 2016

A study by UC Berkeley researchers applying the 1991 Firestorm conditions to the Berkeley Hills concluded that it would take **at least 2 hours** for everyone to evacuate.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L8sCl-kB-tnlvf7sdOCLM2jWQSZ5mXiOCcaNswtVUjQ/edit?usp=sharing>

The history of fires in the Oakland-Berkeley Hills shows that we don't have 2 hours to fully evacuate. Our fires tend to start on the ridgeline and burn quickly downhill:



Shortly before noon the fire had been blown up to the top of Hiller Highlands to the west from where it began its sweep down into the Hiller Highlands development and the southern hills of [Berkeley](#). The fire tossed [embers](#) from the burning houses and

vegetation into the air as it went. These embers were swept away by the torrid winds only to float back to earth to start the blaze in new locations. **Half an hour later**, these embers enabled the fire to jump across both [Highway 24](#), an eight-lane freeway, and [Highway 13](#), a four-lane freeway, eventually igniting hundreds of houses in the Forest Park neighborhood on the northwest edge of the [Montclair](#) district and in the upper [Rockridge Neighborhood](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oakland_firestorm_of_1991

The wildfire threat to life and safety gets worse every year. We urge you to not make matters worse. Please amend SB 9 and SB 10 to exempt the addition of housing units in very high and high fire hazard severity zones and eliminate the ease with which the exemption can be bypassed with so-called mitigations that have proven to be limited in effectiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan J. Piper". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Susan Piper
Chair
Oakland Firesafe Council
www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org

8/2/2021

To: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

From: Gradiva Couzin

RE: Discussion of East Bay Regional Joint Powers Agency

Hi DFSC Commissioners,

I'm writing to call your attention to a proposal to create a regional Joint Powers Agency (JPA) for Wildfire Prevention and Vegetation Management in the East Bay.

The proposal, which is endorsed by Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmembers Droste and Wengraf, State Senator Nancy Skinner and Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, and others, would form a new agency to create plans and manage wildfire prevention in a coordinated, combined way throughout the East Bay area rather than working separately in multiple local jurisdictions.

As an example of an existing JPA that would likely be similar to the East Bay agency, Marin County has a JPA in place, which can be seen on the website here:

<https://www.marinwildfire.org/>

My expectation is that this type of agency would include a few features:

- Governance by a board of directors with representatives from the various localities and counties
- Financial contribution required from the participants
- Actions taken (e.g. creating fire breaks, financially supporting veg management on private land, or other actions) would be agreed upon by the governing board and paid for from a joint fund

Clearly working in a coordinated and cooperative way as a group makes sense given the shared wildfire risk and the fact that wildfires are likely to originate in one jurisdiction and spread to other jurisdictions. Additionally, wildfire smoke, evacuation routes, and other wildfire impacts will cross all of these boundaries.

On the negative side, creating a new agency seems likely to create difficult financial questions such as the question of whether some of Berkeley's Measure FF funding should go towards the group effort, and whether that would even be legal. It would probably make the most sense for JPA actions to be funded from new, separate funding, but it seems unlikely that Berkeley voters will approve additional funding considering that we just voted for Measure FF.

I have no specific action to recommend at this time, just wanted to make sure this proposal is on the Commission's radar.

Toward an East Bay Wildfire Prevention Vegetation Management Agency

It is time for a new, more effective, regional approach if the East Bay Hills are to be safe from future wildfires. This is in support of using the Joint Powers Authority process to address the wildfire threat posed by inadequate vegetation management in the hills of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Today, local government agencies are responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires in urbanized areas and counties are responsible for unincorporated areas. But wildfires cross jurisdictional boundaries involving multiple cities and counties.

Wildfires move at hurricane speeds and force, with winds from 60 to 100 mph, fast enough to jump huge freeways. It took only one hour for the Berkeley Oakland Tunnel Fire to move from the Berkeley Hills across the Highway 24 freeway to destroy homes in the Upper Rockridge area of Oakland. To the north, it took only four hours for the Tubbs Fire to move from the Napa Valley to Santa Rosa. To the south, the Thomas Fire moved from Ventura to Santa Barbara, jumping a 15-lane freeway. Once started, extinguishing wildfires often is no longer possible, leaving evacuation as the only answer. Evacuation times are often measured in minutes, or less.

Since they are impossible to stop once they get going, preventing wildfires becomes our only choice. In Alameda County alone, there are 14 separate cities. If vegetation in our area is to be well managed to reduce the threat of wildfire, the necessary expertise, workforce and financial resources must be assembled over a broad enough area to be effective. Local agencies with all their present responsibilities unfortunately lack sufficient breadth and resources to adequately address the problem. Coordinating vegetation management among all the East Bay local public agencies is an impossible challenge without a mechanism to lead that effort.

Just as we have special districts in the Bay Area to manage air quality, water quality, and regional planning and transportation, it is time to create a wildfire prevention district to manage vegetation and dramatically reduce the fuel that causes the spread of wildfires in our wildland urban interface. Local government agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa counties can create a joint powers authority to accomplish this.

An East Bay Wildfire Prevention and Vegetation Management Agency would

- (1) Develop a plan to reduce the most flammable wildlands vegetation in the East Bay Hills to the maximum extent feasible and to replace it with wildfire resistant vegetation where appropriate.
- (2) The plan would protect sensitive wildlife habitats and native plant landscapes.

- (3) The plan would include a “Defensible Space” program to aid owners of private property with information resources to manage vegetation on their properties.
- (4) The plan would include a "Home Hardening" program to advise homeowners, schools and commercial property owners on how their structures can be protected from wildfires.
- 5) Raise funds by applying for state and federal grants, preparing tax measures for voter approval and other means permitted by law.
- 6) Implement the plan by retaining sufficient staff and equipment and/or by contracting with others to remove the most flammable vegetation in wildland areas and to implement the public information programs for defensible space and home hardening.

An added benefit of a district that addresses this problem may be that the current difficulties many property owners are facing with either cancellation of their homeowner insurance policies or huge rate increases due to increased fire risks would be lessened.

**East Bay Wildfire Prevention and Vegetation Management Joint Protection Agency
Endorsements as of June 1, 2021**

Elected Officials

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Agency/Municipality</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Role</i>
<i>California</i>	State Senate	Nancy Skinner	Senator, District 9
<i>California</i>	State Assembly	Buffy Wicks	Assemblymember, District 15
<i>California</i>	State Assembly	Mia Bonta	Candidate, District 18
<i>California</i>	State Assembly	Janani Ramachandran	Candidate, District 18
<i>Alameda</i>	Board of Supervisors	Keith Carson	Supervisor, District 5
<i>Alameda</i>	Albany	Rochelle Nason	City Councilmember
<i>Alameda</i>	Berkeley	Jesse Arreguin	Mayor
<i>Alameda</i>	Berkeley	Lori Droste	Vice Mayor, City Councilmember
<i>Alameda</i>	Berkeley	Susan Wengraf	City Councilmember
<i>Alameda</i>	Dublin	Shawn Kumagai	City Councilmember
<i>Alameda</i>	Fremont	Vinnie Bacon	Former City Councilmember
<i>Alameda</i>	Hayward	Aisha Wahab	City Councilmember
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Libby Schaaf	Mayor
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Sheng Thao	Mayor Pro Tem, City Councilmember
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Dan Kalb	City Councilmember
<i>Contra Costa</i>	Board of Supervisors	John Gioia	Supervisor, District 1
<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Cerrito	Paul Fadelli	Mayor

<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Cerrito	Gabriel Quinto	Mayor Pro Tem, City Councilmember
<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Cerrito	Janet Abelson	City Councilmember
<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Cerrito	Tessa Rudnick	City Councilmember
<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Cerrito	Greg Lyman	Former Mayor
<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Cerrito	Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto	Former City Councilmember
<i>Contra Costa</i>	Hercules	Tiffany Grimsley	City Councilmember
<i>Contra Costa</i>	San Pablo	Rita Xavier	Vice Mayor, City Councilmember
<i>Regional</i>	East Bay Regional Park District	Dee Rosario	Board Member
<i>Regional</i>	East Bay Regional Park District	Dennis Waespi	Board Member

Community Organizations

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Agency/Municipality</i>	<i>Organization</i>
<i>Alameda</i>	Berkeley & Oakland	Claremont Canyon Conservancy
<i>Alameda</i>	Berkeley & Oakland	Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Friends of the Montclair RR Trail
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Garber Park Stewards
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Montclair Neighborhood Council
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	North Hills Community Association
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Oakland Firefighters IAFF Local 55
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Oakland Firesafe Council
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Oakland Landscape Committee
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Assn.
<i>Alameda</i>	Oakland	South Hills Beat 35Y
<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Cerrito	El Cerrito Trail Trekkers
<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Cerrito	Make El Cerrito Fire Safe
<i>Contra Costa</i>	El Sobrante	94803 Emergency Preparedness Alliance
<i>Contra Costa</i>	Kensington	Kensington Neighbors for Wildfire Safety
<i>Contra Costa</i>	Kensington	Kensington Public Safety Council
<i>Contra Costa</i>	Regional	Phreed (Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo, El Sobrante for Equity & Diversity)
<i>Contra Costa</i>	Richmond	Richmond Firefighters Local 188
<i>Regional</i>	East Bay Regional Park District	Regional Parks Association
<i>Regional</i>	Regional	The Sierra Club

August 4, 2021

To: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Chair Bedolla and Commissioners Bradstreet, Couzin, Stein, Rader, Simmons and Degenkolb
From: Commissioner Dean
Re: Item 9, July 19, 2021 Letter from Oakland Fire Safe Council re SB 9 and SB 10, and Item 4, Enforcement of Existing Prking Rules and Regulations

Dear Fellow Commissioners,

While the traditional “Fire Season” is now extended throughout the whole year, we are currently entering the height of that year-round concern with the added problem that we are in the middle of a severe drought. There can be no doubt about the high degree of seriousness which stems from the problems that are stated in the July 19, 2021 letter from the Oakland Fire Safe Council regarding the effects of SB 9 and SB 10 on both our and neighboring communities. Critical votes to approve these bills are coming up in August. Yet, many questions about the effects that such legislation will have on us have not been answered and on June 15, 2021, only three members on the City Council (Councilmembers Harrison, Hahn and Wengraf) voted to voice opposition to SB 9 as written. I maintain that it is a basic duty of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission to give voice to the community’s concerns about these matters and so advise the City Council.

Currently, SB 9 when combined with ADU requirements allows lot splits in single family zoned neighborhoods so that four units could be constructed on each split. All of which would be approved ministerially, i.e. without any notice to neighbors or a public hearing. Exempt from this are the following

--- *“A very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ), as defined by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFire), unless the site has adopted fire hazard mitigation measures required by existing building standards and*

--- *“An earthquake fault zone as determined by the State Geologist, unless the development complies with existing applicable building standards”*

SB 10 allows any parcel in a “transit rich area” or in an “urban infill” project to be up-zoned without any CEQA review to allow 10 residential units. Two ADUs and two Junior ADUS per parcel that are allowed under Government Code Sections 65852.2 and 65852.22 are not counted in this number. Urban infill projects can be located in almost any area in Berkeley. A “High-quality Bus Corridor” is defined within the bill as to average service intervals between specific hours Monday through Friday and average service intervals during Monday through Friday, and Saturday and Sunday. A “Transit Rich Area” is further defined as a parcel within one-half mile of a major transit stop as defined in Section 21064.3 of the Public Resources Code, or a parcel on a “High-quality Bus Corridor.” Exempt areas are:

--- *“Parcels located within a very high fire hazard severity zone, as determined by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 51178, or within a high or very high fire hazard severity zone as indicated on maps adopted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 4202 of the Public Resources Code. This paragraph does not apply to sites that have adopted fire hazard mitigation measures pursuant to existing building standards or state fire mitigation measures applicable to the development.”*

It is impossible to understand what all of this means.

What are the exact fire risk areas described in the bills. The maps available on the interest indicate a different picture of what seems to be meant by the City of Berkeley. The CalFire map shown as Attachment 1 map indicates what may be what the State calls the “very high fire hazard zone” yet it

hints at and the City appears to include what is referred to as the “hillside overlay” that includes Fire Zones 2 and 3 or the entire grey zone shown on Attachment 1 and on the two maps shown as Attachment 2. Does the very high fire hazard zone include only that area shown on the internet map or does it include both Fire Zones 2 and 3 and what does “adopted fire hazard mitigation measures required by existing building standards” and “existing applicable building standards” in earthquake zones mean?

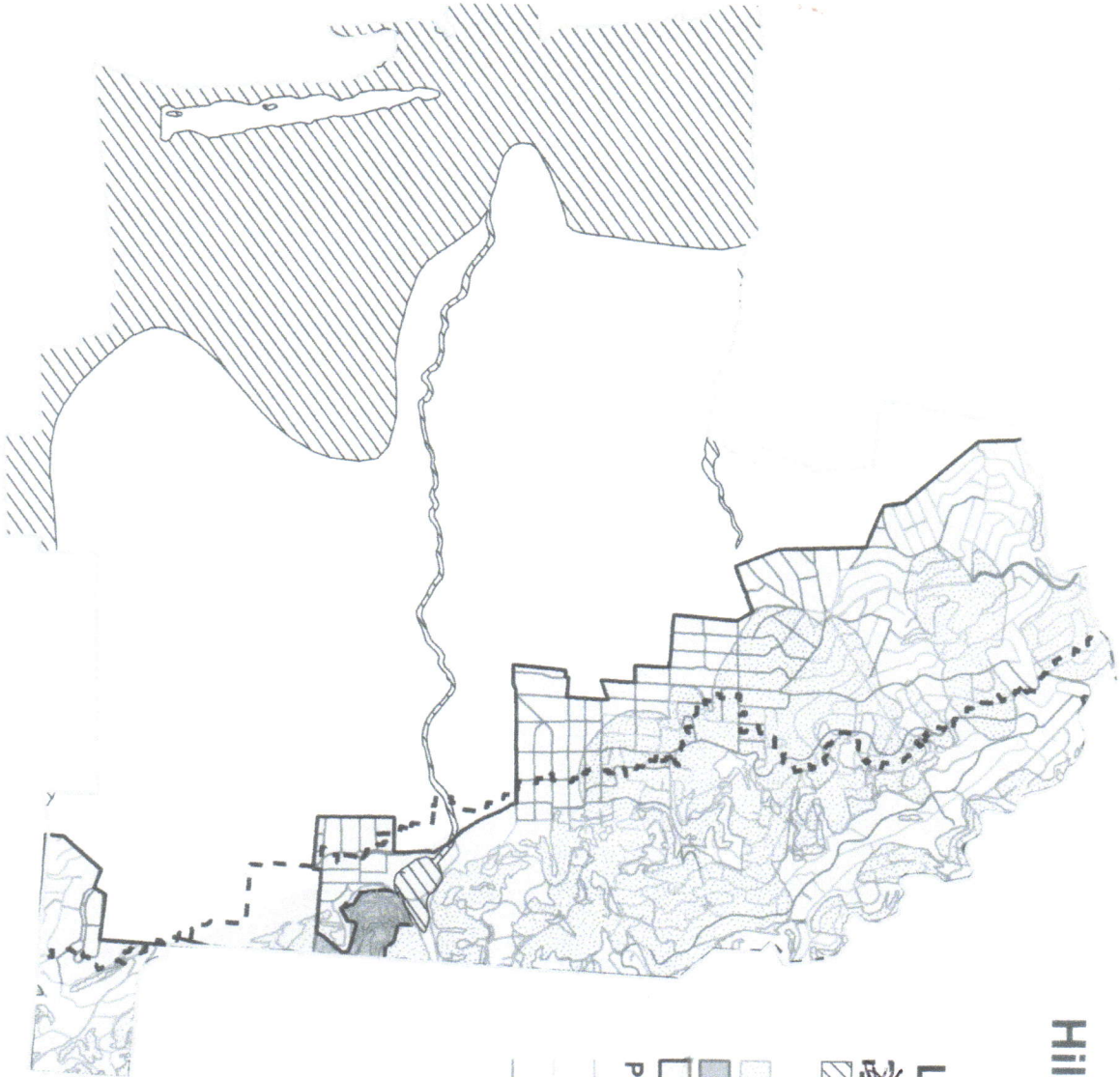
Fire Zones 2 and 3, according to a report done by the City in October 2015 identifies over 44 miles of roads so narrow (26 feet wide or less) that they hamper access by emergency vehicles and fail when used as evacuation routes. Please see the bottom of page two of the OFSC letter that states “*A study by UC Berkeley researchers applying the 1991 Firestorm conditions to the Berkeley Hills concluded that it would take at least two hours for everyone to evacuate.*” Further consider that former Fire Chief Brannigan stated that under the right conditions, Berkeley would burn hills to shore in one hour. Further I cannot find a map that meets the conditions specified in SB 10.

Increased density in fire risk areas has worldwide historically been shown to have a disastrous effect on the whole community as the chaos of evacuation both hinders emergency response and the evacuation of the rest of the community when everyone is trying to evacuate at the same time. This problem is currently being addressed by fire officials through the establishment of evacuation zones, how to safely move more and more people through an infrastructure that was built years ago to accommodate a much smaller population will not simply disappear. Street parking is a many years long problem that we are still trying to solve in a community with narrow streets, let alone after greater density is approved, Further, how do we meet the need for affordable housing units when there is no provision in bills such as SB 9 and 10 to even consider such needs?










With so much missing data how is it that residents, members of commissions, or neighborhood groups or even Councilmembers can understand fully what is being proposed particularly as the City is moving forward with writing and implementing new land use measures to accommodate density increases within the next eight years? I, therefore, propose that the DFSC take the following steps: Request that the City Council

1. Direct the City Manager to form a staff task force to determine the specific high fire risk areas that such bills as SB 9 and SB 10 refer to and do a thumbnail estimate of the increased density that will result if each one is approved and combined with the ADU requirements.
2. Based upon wildfire experience, predicted impacts from State legislation and existing conditions such as density, the close spacing of existing structures, vegetation and infrastructure including parking, streets, wastewater and water resources, reconsider their previous vote regarding SB 9.

City of Berkeley Hillside Conditions Map



Legend

-  Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
-  CGS Seismic Hazard Zone: Liquefaction
-  CGS Seismic Hazard Zone: Earthquake Fault
-  CGS Seismic Hazard Zone: Landslide
-  ES-R Zoning District
-  Hillside Overlay
- Pavement Width**
-  Less than or equal to 20 feet
-  21 to 26 feet
-  Greater than 27 feet

Updated:
November 14, 2019



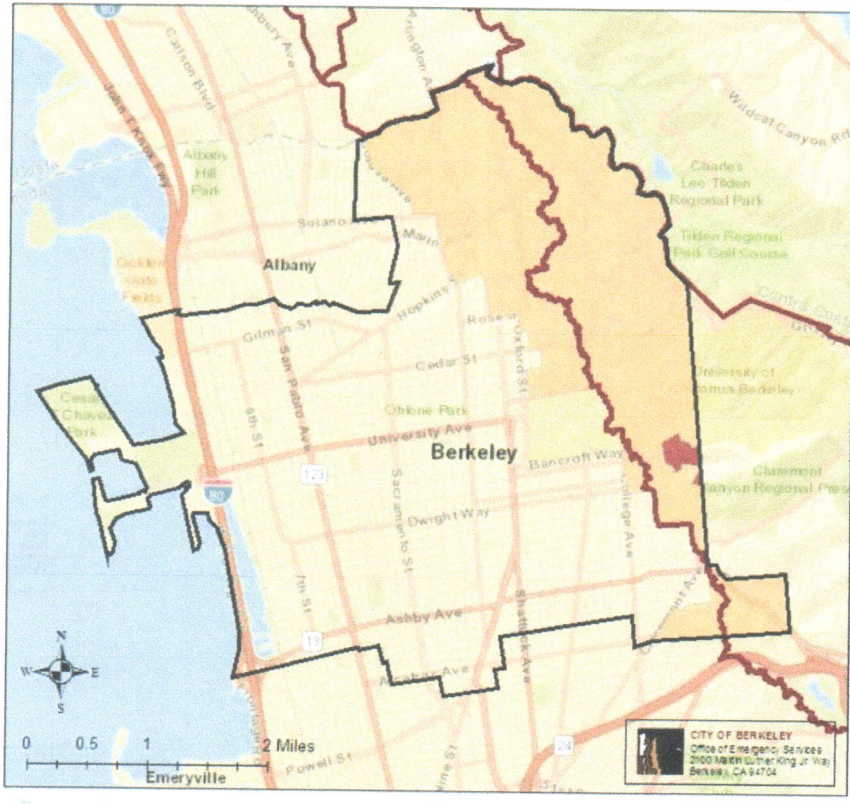
0 800 1,600 3,200 Feet






CITY OF BERKELEY
Land Use Planning Division
Dept. of Planning & Development
2120 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

Communications
Planning Commission
August 5, 2020

EXCERPTS FROM FIRE SAFETY TOWN HALL, 2019

Wildfire Threat in Berkeley



-  City of Berkeley
 -  CA Dept of Forestry, Very High Fire Hazard Zone
- Berkeley Fire Zones**
-  Hazardous Fire Zone 1
 -  Hazardous Fire Zone 2
 -  Hazardous Fire Zone 3

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