



**DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

**August 2, 2023
7:00 PM**

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Vacant

District 1 – Vacant
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet
District 3 – Todd Darling
District 4 – Antoinette Stein

District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 6 – Greg Murphy
District 7 – Harrison Raine
District 8 – Theo Gordon

AGENDA

**Preliminary Matters
Call to Order**

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report*

Consent Items

3. Minutes of July 13, 2023*
From: Commission Secretary
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the July 13, 2023 regular meeting.

Action Items

4. Election of a Vice-Chair position (Bradstreet)
5. Approve the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission's FY2023 Workplan* (Bradstreet)
6. Action item regarding hybrid meetings (Dean)

Discussion Items

7. Discussion item regarding the California Office of the State Fire Marshal's review of the Panoramic Hill neighborhood* (Raine)
8. Discussion item regarding State laws pertaining to development fees (Dean)
9. Request review of low-cost outdoor particulate smoke detectors that are tailored for high priority areas (Stein)

Work Group Reports

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach

10. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

Adjournment

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*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, [kmay@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:kmay@berkeleyca.gov) 510-981-5508.*

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SECRETARY SIGNATURE

DFSC Staff Report

August 2, 2023

1. Measure FF Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview –

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) **End of Year Report due in October**

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. (*Measure FF has funded the study only*)
 - Status: No New Update
- **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: The CWPP Final has been routed to partnering agencies for signatures.

<https://cwpp-berkeley.hub.arcgis.com/>

- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** – The WUI Fire Intern Program has been yielding great results in Fire Zones 2 and 3. Two months ahead of schedule, and in the last 30 days, the Interns have completed over 1629 defensible space inspections and a little over 1100 resolved violations. The interns receive 8 hours weekly of mission specific training and wildfire education. This week, they participated in hose drills at Station 4, and the following week will be 2 days of wildfire mapping and field exercise.

They will be trained as CERT instructors and will assist fire suppression personnel during CERT courses. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) provided ICS and organizational training, setting up the Interns to support EOC activations. The interns have been participating in

community outreach events and will be delivering wildfire safety messaging at National Night Out.

- The Defensible Space Inspection (DSI) program has been modernized to meet the demand of increased inspections. DSI is the term used to reference our software that records the inspection. In addition, IT Department and Finance have worked with WUI to assign and differentiate WUI inspection billing from the Fire Prevention Bureau billing.

The volunteer WUI Ambassador program is developing well and an outreach push is scheduled for September, emphasis on increased resident participation and materials support.

- **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 new updates

- **Safe Passage**

- **Update:** DFSC Working Group will be collaborating with the Fire Department and will reporting updates.

- **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 New Updates.

ii. Implementation & Metrics

- **Outdoor Warning System** – Phase II installation scheduled the first week of August with five installations (Cragmont Elementary, Emerson Elementary, Longfellow Middle School, MLK Middle School, Berkeley Adult School). We are also confirming the remaining five installations to see if they can be completed by the first of September and then move to schedule the Fire Department Final Inspection process.

2. Measure GG Monthly Report

- a. Budget Overview – No new update
- b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November
Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) **End of Year Report due in October**

3. 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. (*Measure FF has funded the study only*)
 - a. Update: No New Updates

4. Department Activities
 - a. On July 25th, BFD received multiple 9-1-1 calls for a structure fire on the 1100 block of Oxford. Crews arrived to find a two-story residential structure with flames and heavy smoke. All residents were confirmed to be out of the structure. This was the second fire at this location in less than a week. Berkeley PD is assisting with the investigation of this incident. There were no civilian or firefighter injuries reported.
 - b. On August 14th, we will be holding a Promotion Ceremony at the Marriott Residence Inn located 2121 Center St. The promotion ceremony includes the badge pinning of Fire Chief Sprague. The department has experienced a lot internal movement over the past year and we always try to recognize the individuals that have put in a ton of work towards reaching the next level in their careers. The event will take place at 1:00 PM.

5. Grants
 - a. **SAFER Grant Planning:** We will be submitting for a SAFER grant to begin to address the staffing recommendations that are outlined in the Standards of Coverage report. A team has been working on the application for several months now and we are close to having a final draft.
 - i. No New Updates.
 - b. **AFG Grant Submission:** We applied for ~800k that would fund two additional full-time on-site Human Performance Specialists for two years who would focus on nutrition and behavioral health.
 - i. No New Updates.
 - c. **Cal Fire, Berkeley, and El Cerrito Grant:** The City is applying for a \$5 million grant to perform education, outreach and direct aid to Fire Zone 2, 3 and to perform work in Cerritos Canyon on both the Berkeley and El Cerrito/Kensington sides.
 - i. No New Updates.
 - d. **CalFIRE Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) Grant:** Berkeley Fire is submitting for about \$1.2 million multi-agency mitigation grant that will provide funding for hazardous vegetation management along key roadways in Fire Zone 2, mostly along all of Grizzly Peak. A lot of work is going into this and the benefits will be a huge win for the City.
 - i. No New Updates.

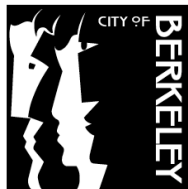
6. **Call Volume Report** – July Report will be provided at the August 2nd Regular meeting as the report will be generated on August 1st

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
July 2023		
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,		
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)		
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)		
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)		
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)		
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)		
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)		
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)		
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)		

Special Incidents (citizen complaints)		
TOTAL		
Unit Utilization		

DFSC Action Tracker

Date of DFSC Action	Description	Status
5/24/2023	Adopt a Recommendation to City Council on the Measure FF and Measure GG Tax Rate Adjustment	Recommendation approved by Council. First reading of Ordinance No. 7,877–N.S. was adopted on 6/27/2023; Second reading of Ordinance No. 7,877-N.S was adopted on 7/11/2023, setting the FY 2024 tax rate for funding Fire Protection and Emergency Response and Preparedness in the City of Berkeley at the rate of \$0.06062 (6.062 cents) per square foot of improvements for dwelling units and setting the rate for all other property at \$0.09173 (9.173 cents) per square foot of improvements.



**DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

**July 13, 2023
7:00 PM**

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Present: Weldon Bradstreet, Shirley Dean, Theodore Gordon, Greg Murphy, Harrison Raine
Absent: Toni Stein, Todd Darling
Staff: Keith May, Leah Greenbaum,
Public: 3 attendees

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Approval by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report*

T. Gordon arrived at 7:04 pm

Consent Items

3. Minutes of May 24, 2023*
From: Commission Secretary
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the May 24, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes: S. Dean

Second: G. Murphy

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine, T. Gordon

0 Noes; 2 Absent: 0 Abstain

Action Items

4. Select a Date and Time for a "Special Meeting" of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission to Hear Presentations on the Facilities Master Plan and the Dispatch Needs Assessment (Bradstreet)

Motion to hold Special Meeting on Thursday September 6, 2023: S. Dean

Second: G. Murphy

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine, T. Gordon

0 Noes; 2 Absent: 0 Abstain

5. Election of a Vice-Chair position (Bradstreet)

Move to hold this item to August 2 meeting: Murphy

Second: Dean

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine, T. Gordon

0 Noes; 2 Absent: 0 Abstain

Discussion Items

6. Work Plan (Bradstreet)
7. Request review of low-cost outdoor particulate smoke detectors that are tailored for high priority areas (Stein)

Held to next meeting

8. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps
 - Action item regarding hybrid meetings (Dean)
 - Discussion item regarding State laws pertaining to development fees (Dean)

Work Group Reports

1. Plan & Budget Oversight
2. Home Hardening
3. Wildland Urban Interface
4. Safe Passages
5. Community Outreach

Adjournment

Motion: Dean

Second: Gordon

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine, T. Gordon

0 Noes; 2 Absent: 0 Abstain

Adjourned at 8:30pm

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Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission WORK PLAN – FY 2023-2024

Mission Statement

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission serves as the public oversight body 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 recommendations on items referred by the City Council or other Commissions.

Summary of FY 2023-2024 Work Plan Activities

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Expected Outcomes</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>
1. Plan & Budget Oversight <i>BFD Staff</i> Contact: D. Sprague/ K. May	a) Review BFD materials on a quarterly basis b) Meet monthly as Finance ad hoc working group with FD to review monthly materials c) Track financial issues related to FF & GG with the City Council	a) Budget development plan b) Provide input of quarterly budget c) Provide annual budget recommendation City Council on FF & GG d) Provide recommendation to City Council on annual GG increases e) Provide City Council recommendation for midyear program corrections (ad hoc)	Rotating group of commissioners (based on availability) on a quarterly basis hosted by Chair / Chief
2. Home hardening <i>BFD Staff</i> Contact: D. Green	a) Lead review of monthly inspection report b) Review sessions with Fire Marshal c) Listening sessions with Building Department	a) Provide recommendation to City Council on annual inspection program targets b) Provide recommendation to City Council on building code modifications for fire safety (ad hoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Murphy • W. Bradstreet • S. Dean
3. Wildland-urban interface <i>BFD Staff</i> Contact: D. Green	a) Review vegetation management program b) Discuss grant applications and planned project allocations	a) Provide recommendation to City Council on vegetation management program b) Knowledge of grant funding distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Gordon • H. Raine •

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Expected Outcomes</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>
<p>4. Safe passages</p> <p><i>BFD Staff Contact: D. Green / S. Lana</i></p>	<p>a) Review previous safe passages program and its component parts (parking restrictions, red curb, notification alerts, evacuation planning)</p> <p>b) Meet with community members for intake</p> <p>c) Absorb CWPP report</p>	<p>a) Restart of Safe Passages Program</p> <p>b) Formation of team/committee to develop plan</p> <p>c) Provide recommendation to City Council on draft revised Safe Passages program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>T. Gordon</u> • Stein
<p>5. Community Outreach</p> <p><i>BFD Staff Contact: S. Lana/ D. Dailey</i></p>	<p>a) Work with FD on educating the public on disaster and fire safety programs</p> <p>b) Coordinate / alert commission of potential outlets for information</p> <p>c) Follow / facilitate / support meetings with community groups</p> <p>d) Follow to conclusion external emergency speaker system</p> <p>e) Track Commission recommendations / status</p>	<p>a) Provide recommendation to City Council on mid-program changes to current communications plan</p> <p>b) Provide City Council recommendation into annual communications plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A. Stein</u> • G. Murphy • W. Bradstreet

I would like to bring the Commission's attention to a recent subdivision review carried out by the California Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) that examines the Panoramic Hill neighborhood. The review, as part of AB2911 mandates that OSFM examine neighborhoods (determined to be 30 or more parcels) that are in high fire risk areas with minimal evacuation capacity. The attached review lays out several key recommendations from OSFM including:

1. Creation of a secondary access route
2. Installation of reflective street signs directing residents to nearest evacuation safety zone
3. Narrowing of side street parking
4. Practice of community-wide evacuation drills.

Obviously, some of these recommendations are more feasible than others, but bringing this to the attention of the council is necessary as the state is formally recommending that action be taken to improve evacuation safety within hillside areas. Furthermore, this subdivision is only one of many in the Berkeley Hills that exhibit similar levels of risk. We have long discussed the possibility of similar action such as narrowing of parking, such as in the Safe Passage's initiative, and these recommendations only serve to reiterate the need for movement on these issues. While this review focuses extensively on the "Orchard" subdivision, steps towards remediating risk should be considered for all areas in hillside fire zones.

At the very least, community-wide evacuation drills exist as a low-cost option to extend awareness about risk and provide a useful training exercise to both firefighting personnel and residents. Other localities in the Bay Area, such as Novato, have already carried out such drills and there is no reason that neighborhoods in Berkeley cannot do so as well.

In closing, I urge the commission to consider these formal recommendations and consider the costs and benefits associated with their implementation. While this review exists as recommendations now, they may one day become statutory requirements. It is up to us, as a commission, to take this review and ensure that action be taken to promote risk reduction in our high fire hazard zones.

Link to AB2911 Subdivision Survey Reports: [AB2911 - Subdivision Survey Reports \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)



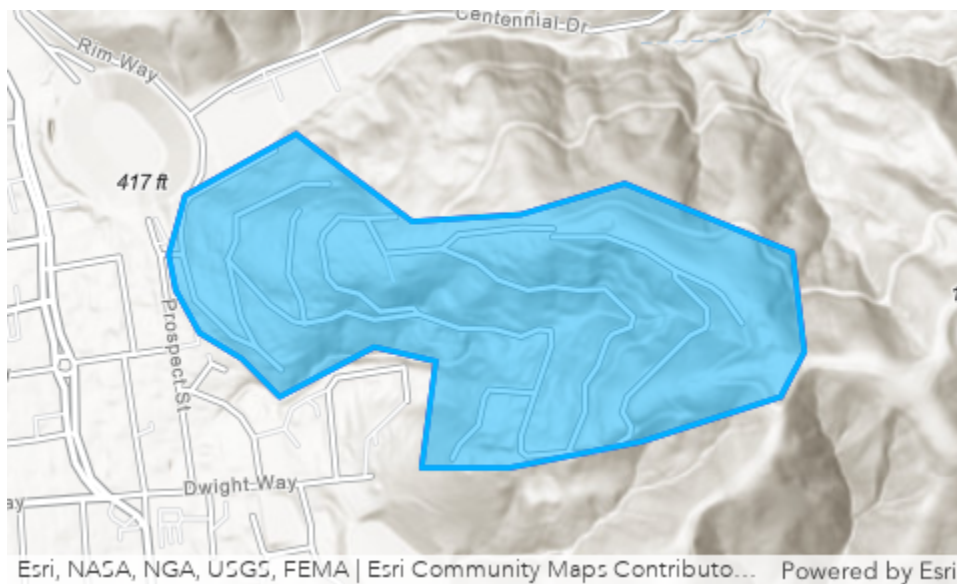
Subdivision Survey Report

Part I: Site Information

Subdivision Information

Subdivision Name: Orchard
Subdivision ID: 21-XAL-4B70
Subdivision is located within: Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone
LRA Very High

Map: Orchard



Address: 1 Orchard Ln

City: Berkeley

County: Alameda

CALFIRE Administrative Unit:
SCU - Santa Clara Unit

CAL FIRE Unit Contact:
Mike Marcucci

Primary Fire Protection Agency: City Fire Department

Comments: Oakland and Berkeley FD

Orchard

Part II: Site Information and Fire Survey

Subdivision Description

Date Surveyed:

June 20, 2023

Estimated number of dwelling units

209

Survey Results

Type(s) of vegetation within and around the subdivision (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Brush |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | |

Comments:

Topographic features within and around the subdivision (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canyon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimneys |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-slope | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slope Setback |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saddle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ridge Top |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flat Land | |

Comments:

Residential structure types identified (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single Family | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duplex |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Townhomes | <input type="checkbox"/> Apartments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile/Manufactured | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Comments:

Identified water source(s) availability (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrants | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Hydrants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Water Tanks | <input type="checkbox"/> No Water Source |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wharf Hydrant | |

Comments:

Orchard

Access and Evacuation

Is there a secondary egress route in the subdivision? (PRC 4290.5, 14 CCR 1267.01(a)(i)(ii))

Yes No

Is the secondary egress route navigable by a passenger vehicle weighing 6,000 pounds or less, of equal construction standard of the primary road? (14 CCR 1267.01(a)(i))

Note: The secondary road does not have to be rated to carry the same quantity of traffic (e.g., a two-lane paved road and a one-lane paved road is acceptable).

Yes No

Is there another road with locked gates or limited access; or a road that directs traffic to the same outlet road as the primary road or results in a circular traffic flow, to the extent practicable? (14 CCR 1267.01(a)(ii))

Yes No

Comments:

Orchard

Part III: Recommendations

Access and Evacuation Recommendations (check all that apply):

- Create a secondary access to the subdivision.
- Make improvements to the existing secondary access to the subdivision.
- Install reflective addressing signs for structures and roads in conformance with 14 CCR § 1274.01, 1274.02, 1274.03, and 1274.04 and the California Fire code, California Code of Regulations, title 24, part 9.
- Install reflective evacuation route street signs directing residents from their local roads to the nearest collector road(s) and/or arterial highway(s) (see California Highway Design manual for definitions), based on the standards for emergency management signing in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- Where additional routes may exist, but with a gate that does not conform to the requirements in 14 CCR § 1273.09, recommend that gates (including private gates) remain unlocked during red flag warnings or high fire danger conditions.
- When side street parking narrows the road to a smaller width than the standards in 14 CCR § 1273.01, during red flag warnings or conditions of high fire danger, limit street parking so a wider pathway is available to support rapid evacuation.
- Conduct community-wide evacuations drills.
- Install reflective markers to indicate road edges or other areas of danger that might not be evident during periods of low visibility.

Comments: