



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR  
February 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Dave Brannigan, Fire Chief  
Subject: Companion Report: Wildland Urban Interface Fire Safety and Fire Safety Education

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that City Council refer the specific operational items in the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission report to the budget process for consideration and review by impacted City departments.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Fiscal impacts to be determined. Staff from Fire, Police, Public Works, PRW and possibly other departments will likely need to contribute time to analysis and program development.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At the December 6, 2017 regular meeting of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, the Commission moved to recommend that the City Council approve eight (8) measure recommendations that would; 1) Strengthen existing fire safety measure utilized by the City of Berkeley for the safety and wellbeing of its residents, and 2) Strengthen existing fire education outreach efforts to make contact with more citizens by using both digital and paper media platforms. M/S: Stein/Flasher; Vote: (6 Ayes: Grimes, Flasher, Legg, Stein, Degenkolb, Golomb; 0 Noe; 1 Absent: Griffin; 2 Abstain: Bailey, Couzin)

BACKGROUND

The intent of the Commission's recommendation is community fire mitigation and education to help prevent deaths, lessen the number of and severity of injuries, property damage, and reduce both the tangible and intangible long term costs of fire disasters.

The Berkeley Fire Department has been working to strengthen fire safety procedures by producing the Emergency Operation Plan, changing the community alerting mechanism from Berkeley Emergency Notification System (BENS) to the Alameda County Alert System (AC Alert), and Nixle Notification System.

The Berkeley Fire Department has been using the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a guideline when issuing Red Flag Conditions. NOAA issues

a regional condition report to notify communities when certain conditions are present in a given region. The Berkeley Fire Department takes a closer look at the conditions in the Berkeley and Oakland area as they may show an increase or decrease in what the regional condition will show. And, the Berkeley Fire Department can update the weather report at any time day/night as opposed to the twenty-four hour reporting format of NOAA.

There are fiscal impacts in each of these program areas that affect require additional analysis. The proposed measures put forth by the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission are comprehensive and cross multiple City department responsibilities. The impact of the recommendations will require City staff to evaluate them in great detail. Therefore, the City Manager recommends that Council refer the Commission's specific operational recommendations to the budget process for consideration and review by the impacted City departments.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental outcomes may be recognized by a City department once the impact to a department has been realized.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The budget process incorporates a comprehensive analysis and assessment of the City's financial position across all funds and liabilities.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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