1. **Introduction.** Ms. Miller welcomed the group and attendees introduced themselves.
   - Dinah Benson, Oakland Wildfire Protection Assessment District, Oakland Fire Safe Council
   - Ken Benson, Oakland Fire Safe Council
   - Brian Biancardi, PG&E Vegetation Management
   - Barbara Droher Kline, Sunol
   - Gilbert Bendix, Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) Board
   - Robert Chew, CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
   - Brad Gallup, Fire Captain East Bay Regional Park District
   - Dee McDonough, DFSC Board President
   - Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator DFSC
   - Lawrence Nunes, Briones, DFSC Board
   - Ed Orre, CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
   - David Rocha, Fire Chief Alameda County Fire Department
   - Dee Roasario, Friends of Sausal Creek
   - Bob Sieben, Oakland Hiller Highlands
   - Scott Watson, CAL FIRE (ret)
   - Ciara Wood, Kensington Fuel Reduction Project, DFSC Board

2. **What is a CWPP & Why Should Alameda County’s be updated**
   Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator, DFSC provided an overview of the 2012 Alameda County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaboratively developed plan that identifies wildland fire hazards, prioritizes ways to reduce those hazards and recommends measures for homeowners and communities to reduce ignitability of structures. The Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) has obtained funding to update the 2012 Alameda County Plan (for more detail on the planning process see our website at [www.diablofiresafe.org/ala_co_CWPP.html](http://www.diablofiresafe.org/ala_co_CWPP.html)). We plan to spend three working sessions in 2014 discussing updates with community members and agency partners.

   In 2012, DFSC and stakeholders in Alameda County developed a CWPP addressing high fire hazard areas to reduce the risk of loss of life and property due to wildfire. The current CWPP can be downloaded at [www.diablofiresafe.org/pdf/AlCo_CWPP_060512.pdf](http://www.diablofiresafe.org/pdf/AlCo_CWPP_060512.pdf). There are two key reasons to develop a CWPP:
   1. The plan is the opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction project on federal lands.
   2. The plan establishes priority for funding of hazardous fuel reduction projects.

   Since the development of the Alameda County plan, DFSC has been able to secure funding for community projects (see our latest newsletter and current activities).

**What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?**
A CWPP is a written document, mutually agreed upon by local, state and federal representatives and stakeholders that identifies how a community will reduce its risks from wildland fire. Community Wildfire Protection Plans are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), passed by Congress November 21, 2003 and signed into law December 3, 2003. The HFRA established unprecedented incentives for communities to take lead roles in community wildfire protection. Eleven years after the legislation CWPPs continue to shape prevention and fuel reduction.

In order to be federally recognized the CWPP must be signed by three entities:
   1. The applicable local government (i.e., counties or cities)
   2. The local fire department(s)
3. The state entity responsible for forest management – CAL FIRE.

There are three minimum requirements that also must be met:

1. Collaboration: A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.

2. Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.

3. Treatment of Structural Ignitability: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area.

Planning Process and Time Frame

An “Overview” was provided to the group that identified the update process, timeframe, key outcomes, results and deliverables:

- Step 1: Kickoff, Convene Decision-makers, Involve Federal Agencies, Engage Interested Parties
- Step 2: Review Existing CWPP and Projects and Priorities Update
- Step 3: Action Plan Update and Assessment Strategy
- Step 4: Plan Update

Download the Overview at www.diablofiresafe.org/ala_co_CWPP.html

2012 CWPP highlights

Ms. Miller provided a review of the contents of the CWPP:

1. County Information – overview and identification of stakeholders
2. Fire hazard and risk in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
3. Prioritized fuel reduction treatments
4. Treatment of structural ignitability
5. Signature page
6. Appendix

She also highlighted the 8 priority action items and geographically based fuel reduction projects and prevention strategies found in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the plan focusing on:

- Improving communication with messaging system
- Regionally specific educational materials for homeowners
- Evacuation planning
- Fuel reduction projects and prevention strategies by agency or group including: Alameda County Fire Department, Albany Fire Department/ City of Albany, Berkeley Fire Department/ City of Berkeley, Cal FIRE Santa Clara Unit, Claremont Canyon Conservancy, East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Diablo Fire Safe Council, Freemont Fire Department/ City of Fremont, Garber Park Stewards, Hayward Fire Department, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Livermore Area Parks and Recreation District / Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, Oakland Fire Department/ Oakland Wildfire Prevention District, North Oakland Hills Association, Pacific Gas and Electric, San Francisco PUC, University of California Berkeley.
- Monitoring forest health
- Volunteer projects on public lands
- Balancing fuel load management with biological resource protection
- Education and training on structure retrofit
- Access and egress improvements by reducing road restrictions

Roundtable Discussion

Participants discussed current issues, updates on projects/ programs and offered comments on additional items to be considered for the update. Comments can be grouped around several themes:
Use of CWPP and Overall Planning Effort

• The CWPP is critical not only for getting grant funds, but also aids in fire suppression as the recent fires in Siskyou County and the Lodge fire have shown. During fire suppression the maps of recent projects were used to strategize fire-fighting activities. Fire crews were able to expand existing shaded fuel breaks to help slow the fire and improve protection of the communities of Etna and Fort Jones.

• Update should review priority actions identified in the plan and refine focus of plan as needed.

Evacuation Planning

• 1991 was a starting point for continuing focus on wildfire with an emphasis on protecting lives. Yet there have been no real changes since 1991 toward preventing roadway traffic congestion during evacuation.

• Downed powerlines stopped much of the egress during the 1991 fire. PG&E Rule 20 funding should be identified in the plan as a source for funding (recognize that it is very competitive).

• Evacuation and parking critical in many areas with limited circulation network and narrow roads. Need to have maps ready to go in the glovebox. Ready-Set-Go program being used in Moraga Orinda Fire District.

New Partners, Risk Assessment and Coalition Building

• New partners included community of Sunol. The community is located a box canyon so evacuation is critical. They are interested in adding community projects, etc. to the Alameda County CWPP. Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park is adjacent to parts of their community. However, the EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Prevention and Resource Management Plan does not cover that area.

• Cal Fire is also concerned about Sunol and the need for pre-fire planning and evacuation plans. Evacuation is difficult due to single access road. Evacuation into park may be more risky putting people mid-slope into the path of fire. In some locations shelter-in-place may be best option.

• The Federal “communities at risk list” on page 2.4 does not identify all the communities that have been identified by at risk by CAL FIRE and local agencies. We should include a statement like in the Contra Costa County CWPP adding those areas.

• Update on the sunset of the Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District. They will continue until the existing funds have been expended. Oakland Fire Safe Council is a new non-profit group focusing on putting action on the ground.

• Parks programs as a potential education outlet to incorporate fire safety education.

• Pacific Gas and Electric recognizes how important fuel clearance is along both the transmission and powerlines where potential for wildfire is a liability to both their facilities and the surrounding communities. They are interested in continuing to be a major partner with CWPPs and implementation.

• Form coalitions with other stakeholders to move forward issues. For example:
  - Broom – partners could include Resource Conservation District, Cattlemen’s Association, Invasive Pest Council
  - Agricultural partners, land developers, planning departments

Planning and New Development

• Use of planning tools and connectivity critical during preparedness and for proactive prevention.

• Identify other community members such as municipal advisory councils, planning commissions for mitigation of existing issues. Request each fire department contact planning departments (city and county) to send a rep to the next meetings.

Education and reducing fuel loads

• Education focused on landscape, gardeners and homeowners regarding plant choices. Monterey pine, manzanita, ceanothus, juniper, grease plant, rosemary and others still being planted.
Arizona State Legislature outlawed the sale of broom species after the 2002 Chediski Fire. In California the agricultural control is county by county. San Diego City/County has adopted an ordinance regarding sale of new or replacement plants. Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner has been approached, but has not agreed to any restrictions.

- PG&E has worked with Home Depot as a stakeholder for their tree planting under powerlines program. They provided tree tags to help identify trees that were suitable for planting in that location.

**Expanding Participation in the Planning Process**
Anticipated outreach methods for the project will include:

- Email “Updates”
- Information on web-sites
- Media releases

Ms. Miler requested stakeholders spread the word to others in their agency or groups. She will send out a save the date email and request Fire Agencies invite their colleagues in planning departments.

**Next Meeting**

- Thursday September 25, 2014

For More Information Contact: Cheryl Miller  
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