Alameda County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update
Summary Working Session #3 – November 20, 2014

1. **Introduction.** Ms. Miller welcomed the group and attendees introduced themselves.
   - Gilbert Bendix, Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) Board
   - Ken Benson, Oakland Fire Safe Council
   - Robert Chew, CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
   - Barbara Dröher Kline, Sunol FireSafe Coalition, DFSC Board
   - Brad Gallup, East Bay Regional Park District
   - JV McCarthy, Castro Valley
   - Dee McDonough, DFSC Board President
   - Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator DFSC
   - Lawrence Nunes, Briones, DFSC Board
   - Manuel Pinto, Oakland Fire Department
   - Ed Orre, CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
   - Stephen Riggs, Berkeley Fire Department
   - Dee Rosario, Friends of Sausal Creek
   - Jerry Serpa, Spring Valley Fire Department, Santa Clara FSC
   - Mark Silva, East Bay Municipal Utility District
   - Scott Watson, CAL FIRE (ret)
   - Ciara Wood, Kensington Fuel Reduction Project, DFSC Board

2. **Overview of Admin Draft Plan Update.** Ms. Miller distributed a summary of the Admin Draft Plan --“What’s Different in the 11/20/2014 versus the 2012 Alameda County Wildfire Protection Plan.” In addition to highlighting revisions to the plan, the summary identified items for additional discussion.

3. **Discussion: Confirming “Priority Action” items + Monitoring, evaluating and adapting strategies:** The group discussion included confirmation and refinement of the priority actions:
   - **Page 3.2 Priority Action: Improve Communication with Messaging System.** This action will be reworked to focus on “Creating an effective awareness campaign.” The Oakland Fire Safe Council will discuss if it wants to place on its own priority list the 2012 action regarding communication using the Nixel messaging system.
   - **Page 3.3 Priority Action: Regionally Specific Educational Materials for Homeowners.** Additional education materials should be added: the CAL FIRE web site [http://www.preventwildfireca.org](http://www.preventwildfireca.org), [http://www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org) and the “one less spark, one less wildfire” campaign.
   - **Page 3.4 Priority Action: Evacuation Planning.** Development of pre-attack plans using a template provided by CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit should be added. The Lead and Partners should be identified as CAL FIRE SCU and Diablo Fire Safe Council. DFSC has submitted a grant concept application for funding of evacuation planning during 2015.
   - **Page 4.6 – 4.8 2015-2017 Geographically Based Fuels Reduction Projects and Prevention Strategies.** Additional projects were solicited from attendees.
   - **Page 4.9 Priority Action: Monitoring Forest Health.** This action was still considered important given the age of many of the planted Monterey pine and eucalyptus stands in Alameda County, and due to the effects from the drought, (increase in mortality, disease and pests). There continues to be no lead identified for this action.
   - **Page 4.10 Volunteer Projects on Public Lands.** Additional information should be added about progress on this action item: the 2014 project work done by the Kensington, Park Hills and Hiller Highlands groups. Sources for volunteers, such as corporations, and for expertise such as through the non-profits groups of 5 Creeks and Friends of Sausal Creek.
• **Page 4.11 Priority Action: Balancing Fuel Load Management with Biological Resource Protection.** Additional information should be added about progress on this action item: Claremont Canyon Conservancy sponsored UC students who conducted a study of the eucalyptus grove in upper Claremont Canyon. [http://claremontcanyon.org](http://claremontcanyon.org). DFSC sponsored project on Miner Road, Orinda with Muir Heritage Land Trust.

• **Page 5.5 Priority Action: Education and Training on Structure Retrofit.** This action was still considered important given that much of the WUI in Alameda County has existing structures build before Code 7A was adopted. DFSC has submitted a grant concept application for funding education and training on structure retrofit during 2015. The group also discussed a change in the State Fire Plan and a desire for new legislation addressing retroactivity of the codes. It is unlikely that retroactivity will be successful given the experience when it was tried related to smoke detectors and spark arrestors. However local codes may address replacement structures. Effective alternatives to new legislation or seeking retroactivity might be building officials training and utilizing the Safety Elements for new construction, major renovation or replacement dwellings.

• **Page 6.3 Evaluating Information, Education and Collaborative Planning.** It was discussed to use the four evaluation criteria focusing on programs, activities, new information and involvement to monitor and evaluate information, education and collaborative planning. The other criteria while still seen as important are harder to measure.

• **Page 6.4 – 6.5 Evaluating Suppression Capability and Emergency Preparedness.** The two criteria of alignment and evacuation planning remain valuable tools.

• **Page 6.4 Evaluating Fuel Reduction.** The group discussed that new technology, such as satellite imagery could be utilized for evaluating fuels. However, it appears to be costly and time consuming. Monitoring and evaluation will focus on easy to gather statistics on fuel reduction, compliance and joint projects. Monitoring jobs and environmental protection while still important are beyond the capabilities of most of the stakeholders but should remain as potential evaluation and monitoring criteria.

• **Page 6.4 – 6.5 Evaluating reducing structure ignitability.** Nothing has been done to date in this area of the CWPP so there was not direct experience or recommendations to update the 4 monitoring criteria in the 2012 plan.

• **Signature page.** The final Update will go before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for approval. We will also be requesting letters of mutual agreement and support from other stakeholder groups.

4. **Next Steps –Finalizing the Alameda County CWPP Update**
   The comment period on the Admin Draft will be open until December 20th. The Draft Update will circulate Monday, January 5th – Sunday, February 15th, 2015 for public review and comments.
   Once the public comments have been received a final meeting will be held on Thursday February 19th to review comments and finalize the plan.
   Adoption and endorsement of the plan is targeted for the end of February – March 2015.

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