

Alameda County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Summary Working Session #5 – Priorities and Action Plan

1. **Introduction.** Attendees introduced themselves, where they live or work and their perspective, interest or experience with wildfire

- Yeda Altes, Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District
- Dinah Benson, Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Advisory Committee
- Fire Chief Kenneth Blonski, East Bay Regional Park District
- Howard Dyckoff, Oakland Local
- Amber Gardner, Diablo Fire Safe Council
- Barbara Goldenberg, Shepherd Canyon, Friends of Sausal Creek
- Mike Harper, Red Cross
- Jeremiah Hanks, National Park Service
- Jerry Kent, Claremont Canyon Conservancy
- Cheryl Miller, Diablo Fire Safe Council
- Sue Piper, Oakland, Mayor's Office
- Jean Robertson, California Native Plant Society
- Mark Silva, East Bay Municipal Utilities District
- Jay Swardenski, Fremont Fire
- Angie Tam, Oakland
- Ciara Wood, Diablo Fire Safe Council
- Roger Wong, National Park Service

2. **Planning Process Recap - What is a CWPP & Why Should Alameda County Have One**

Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator, Diablo Fire Safe Council provided an overview of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The PowerPoint will be made available on the web site www.diablofiresafe.org/ala_co_CWPP.html

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. CWPPs are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). This Act was passed by Congress on November 21, 2003 and signed into law on December 3, 2003. The HFRA established unprecedented financial incentives for communities to take the lead role in community wildfire protection planning. In order to be federally recognized the CWPP must be signed by three entities: applicable local government (i.e., counties or cities); local fire department(s) and the state entity responsible for forest management – CAL FIRE. Three minimum requirements that also must be met: collaboration; prioritized fuel reduction and treatment of structural ignitability.

As an example, the group reviewed the contents of the Contra Costa CWPP, approved in 2009. They also looked at how the CWPP has been used: to identify and prioritize areas, develop recommendations, find funding and this past year begin to implement education and community projects. (The Contra Costa County plan is at www.diablofiresafe.org/publications.html - CWPP).

Since the stakeholder group last met we provided presentations to groups in Oakland in October and November. A web based survey was also available at app.fluidsurveys.com/surveys/dfsc/cwpp-homeowner-survey/. A summary of the survey results was provided.

The eight step planning process, anticipated timeframe, key outcomes, results and deliverables were also reviewed (see www.diablofiresafe.org/pdf/Planning_Overview.pdf for the Overview). We will continue to gather input as we complete the work on Step 7 Recommendations and Priorities and prepare the Draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

3. Prioritization of Recommendations for Addressing Fire Hazards and Risks

The group reviewed preliminary recommendations for addressing fire hazards and risk brainstormed from the last stakeholder meeting. The recommendations were organized to focus on each of the existing risk and hazard assessments that had been identified at the previous meetings. The charts also included input from the web-based survey and other community outreach presentations. Additional recommendations for strategies, activities and projects to address fire hazards and risks were identified and added to the charts. A chart of Geographically-based Fuel Reduction Projects and Prevention Strategies was also provided as a handout.

Following the review and additions to the recommendations, the group went through a prioritization exercise. Each participant was provide with 12 red dots to place next to their preferred items. See attached Prioritization of Recommendations for Addressing Fire Hazards and Risks for ranking of ideas. The number before each recommendation represents the number of supporting votes from those stakeholders present.

4. Input on Preliminary Draft Action Plan

Following the prioritization exercise the stakeholders divided into groups to develop preliminary action plans around four recommendations.

- 1) Recommendation: Use available technology to improve communication to residents (e.g. fire weather, evacuations, CORE/CERT classes, fireworks reminders and other information). Note: This recommendation could addresses many activities listed under the Information, Education and Collaborative Planning category.
 - a. Implementation Actions:
 - Use Oakland communication system as a model – Oakland Police Department utilizes the Nixle messaging system to send out information via email or to cell phones. Check out potential to expand the type of information that goes out.
 - There may be other off the shelf communication systems in other parts of the county. Look into partnering with California Highway Patrol to use Amber Alert for periods of red flag weather.
 - Promote service via listserves and other methods to get residents to sign-up.
 - Link information to city twitter and government system accounts.
 - b. Lead and Partners: Oakland Wildfire Prevention District to send out information.
 - c. Time frame: Short timeframe to get up and running; ongoing to provide information and make residents aware of the system.
 - d. Estimated Funding Need: \$ use existing system.
- 2) Recommendation: Monitor forest health. Climate change, increase in pathogen and disease from urbanization (many are introduced by nursery plants), as well natural cycles are resulting in decline of forest health, especially in the East Bay Hills where many trees were planted in the early part of the 20th century. This includes monitoring for diseases (sudden oak death, pitch pine canker, bark beetles), drought stress, and the general decline due to aging.
 - a. Implementation Actions:
 - Develop mapping program of disease outbreak and mortality with new mapping every 3 years to track changes.
 - Use remote sensing technologies to develop aerial photo imagery (perhaps LIDAR).
 - Collaborate with UC Berkeley to store data for a continuous data base (similar to Sudden Oak Death project).
 - Provide for on the ground reports from agencies, homeowners, volunteers etc.
 - Sampling and measuring fuel loads such as in Eucalyptus groves would be helpful additional information.
 - Make products available to fire departments to pin-point locations of higher risk.

- b. Lead and Partners: No lead identified. Collaborate with other monitoring programs such as Sudden Oak Death volunteer monitoring program.
 - c. Time frame: On-going.
 - d. Estimated Funding Need: Funds needed for initial mapping, as well as updates.
- 3) Recommendation: Evacuation Planning
- a. Implementation Actions:
 - Focus on community groups and block level.
 - Identify essential supplies to maintain (Go Pack).
 - Identify special populations or needs at the block level.
 - Identify primary and secondary evacuation routes.
 - Coordinate with CORE/ CERT members.
 - Physical improvements to the routes as needed (shoulders, parking restrictions, vegetation clearance, signage etc.)
 - Tie to general education of wildland urban interface issues, red flag warnings etc.
 - b. Lead and Partners: Coordinate with other groups that address evacuation training such as CORE/ CERT and Red Cross, as well as outreach to home owner associations, fire departments, police departments.
 - c. Time frame: short to identify, medium to long term to implement improvements.
 - d. Estimated Funding Need: \$ for maps and brochures; \$\$\$\$\$ for physical improvements.
- 4) Recommendation: Volunteer program to work on public lands to reduce fuels (examples such as adopt a spot or right of entry agreements)
- a. Implementation Actions:
 - Use existing programs as prototypes – Adopt a spot (Oakland), right of entry agreements (East Bay Regional Park with Kensington neighbors and Claremont Canyon Conservancy), “Friends of “groups (e.g. Friends of Sausal Creek, Friends of Beaconsfield Canyon, Friends of Garber Park), other cities may have other volunteer groups
 - Existing non-profit organizations have an easier time getting agreements
 - Benefits include collaboration, education, increased awareness of fuel work completed. Fuel management to provide a place for firefighter to fight fire.
 - Risks include potential injury to volunteers, potential damage to environment if proper oversight is not provide (knowledge of what and how to manage vegetation).
 - b. Lead and Partners: community organizations and land agencies/ cities
 - c. Time frame: on-going
 - d. Estimated Funding Need: \$ No specific cost to agencies, but support of neighbor/ volunteer work force with incentives or grants is helpful.

5. Strategy for Final Presentations

The final steps in the planning process include:

- Preliminary Draft for review – March
- Circulate for comment – April
- Presentation for signatures and support - May

Stakeholders were asked to assist the process by:

1. Following up on Recommendations and Action Plan Ideas with good ideas or examples, BMPS –
2. Identifying or sending out information about the CWPP to groups, neighborhoods or individuals
3. Sharing expertise with recommendations and implementation with group

6 Next Meeting

March 28, 2012 (Information will be emailed early March) Topics: Preliminary Draft Plan

For More Information or to Share Ideas or Information Contact

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Prioritizing Recommendations to Reduce Fire Hazards and Risks

of dots **Activity**

1. Information, Education and Collaborative Planning

8	Share successes and best management practices
7	Fireworks awareness programs and enforcement of restrictions
6	General Wildfire Education Programs and Presentations to Homeowners
6	Project level collaborative planning (agencies and volunteer groups)
6	Hazard assessments of individual homes or neighborhoods
5	Local firefighter or volunteer patrols on Red Flag days
5	Closures and use restrictions during periods of high fire danger
3	Ignition reduction programs (education, engineering, enforcement)
2	Activate information dissemination partners such as media, mayors office, neighborhood associations, business improvement districts, local companies, insurance companies, etc.
2	Monitor fire weather and issue Red Flag warnings
1	Agency specific programs (e.g. Contractor training, code requirements, stop work protocols)
0	Restrictions on use of equipment/ activities during period of high fire danger

2. Reducing fuels around existing homes and structures (private land)

9	Community fuel management - volunteer projects
8	Weed abatement/ "defensible space" inspections and enforcement
7	Funding & Incentives - Community chipping or green waste program
5	Home ignition zone improvements beyond code
5	Targeted project locations (see Geographically based Fuel Reduction Projects and Prevention Strategies)
4	Funding & Incentives - Hazardous tree management on private property
3	Funding & Incentives - "Seed funding" for defensible space fuel management on private land
0	Strengthen inspection and enforcement mechanisms

3. Structure Survivability - Existing Structures

6	Education and training related to structure retrofit - what can be done w/o major remodel
5	Share information on new technologies (Foam, automatically closing vents, wireless garage door closures etc.) and pros and cons
3	Local building codes for remodel (e.g. "Class A" Roofing replacement)
3	Showcase retrofit techniques and materials
2	Funding incentives for structure retrofit

of dots **Activity**

4. Structure Survivability - Planning for New Development

4	WUI building standards - Chapter 7A or better
4	Mechanism for long term open space fuel management
4	Infill new construction on previously unbuildable lots - structure protection + egress issues
3	Requirements for development in high hazard areas
3	Infrastructure design - Roads: Access for emergency equipment and evacuation
0	Infrastructure design - Fire Sprinklers
0	Infrastructure design - Underground utilities

5. Fuel management on public lands

8	Integrated vegetation/ resource management (EBRPD, EBMUD, LBNL, SFPUC, UCB etc.)
8	Volunteer programs to work on public lands to reduce fuels (examples such as adopt a spot or right of entry agreements)
7	Facilitate sharing of Best management practices
7	Monitor forest health (disease such as sudden oak death, pitch pine canker and aging forest) and what to do once trees are removed
4	Hazardous tree removal along public roadways
1	Status of past plans and continued refinements of best management practices (1995 plan and other documents)

6. Enhanced Suppression Capability and Emergency Preparedness

9	Evacuation planning including for pets and large animals
6	Evacuation/ access route improvements - roadside vegetation, parking or other obstructions, road widening, new routes
6	Educate residents on preparedness
2	Mutual aid and coordinated responses
2	Rural water supply and drafting points
2	Overhead powerlines that do not follow roads as igniton source - suppression equip. access
1	Wildland fire training and equipment
0	Emergency preparedness training CERT programs
0	Water availability - fire flows for existing & new developments

Geographically Based Fuels Reduction Projects and Prevention Strategies

Agency or Group	Project or Strategy	Status
Alameda County Fire Department		
Albany Fire Department & City of Albany	1. Annual weed abatement code enforcement, and abatement in high hazard area	Ongoing Funded
	2. Draft Albany Hill and Creekside Park Vegetation Management Plan	Draft plan
Berkeley Fire Department & City of Berkeley	1. Annual weed abatement code enforcement, and abatement in high hazard area	Ongoing Funded
CAL FIRE Santa Clara Ranger Unit	Technical support and personnel to allied agencies who are conducting projects in the SRA and LRA of Alameda County. See Unit Plan Santa Clara County.	Ongoing Funded
	Coordination of Fire Crews for project work.	Ongoing Funded (limited availability)
Claremont Canyon Conservancy	Claremont Canyon Advocate Plan implementation	volunteers + capital campaign for funding
East Bay Regional Park District	1. FEMA EIS for Grant Funding for projects in Claremont Canyon, Tilden, Redwood, Chabot Regional Parks	Ongoing Funded
	2. Project implementation in East Bay Hills. See Wildland Hazard Mitigation and Resource Management Plan.	Ongoing Funded
	3. High fire danger information - use restrictions	Ongoing
East Bay Municipal Utility District	Grizzly Peak ridgetop fuel reduction	Ongoing Funded
Diablo Fire Safe Council	Defensible Space Program - seed fund for community projects	unfunded
	Contractor/ Landscape Designer Training Workshops	unfunded
	South Oakland Community Fuel Reduction	funded 2012
Freemont Fire Department & City of Freemont	1. Annual weed abatement code enforcement, and abatement in high hazard area	Ongoing Funded
Garber Park Stewards	Garber Park Oakland vegetation management	volunteers unfunded

Agency or Group	Project or Strategy	Status
Hayward Fire Department	1. Annual weed abatement code enforcement, and abatement in high hazard area	Ongoing Funded
	2. Ward Creek community fuel reduction projects	initial funding thru 5/2012
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	Annual fuel reduction maintenance.	Ongoing Funded
Oakland Fire Department and Oakland Wildfire Prevention District	1. Annual defensible space code enforcement and abatement of private property in wildfire prevention district	Ongoing Funded thru 2014
	2. City-owned property defensible space abatement in wildfire prevention district	Ongoing Funded thru 2014
	3. FEMA EIS for Grant Funding for projects in Claremont Canyon	Ongoing Funded
North Oakland Hills Association	Aging trees that could fall across powerlines along major roads (Snake, Skyline)	unfunded
	Vacant lots in Vicente Creek Canyon (near Strathmoor, Grandview and Gravatz Drive)	unfunded
	Swainland Reservoir fuel reduction South of Highway 24 below to Fairlane Drive	unfunded
	Hillside/roadside clearance Tunnel Rd (N & W of Gateway Garden)	unfunded
	Roadside clearance Claremont Av	Funded thru 2014
	Roadside clearance Castle Drive and Skyline Drive	Funded thru 2014
	Roadside clearance Skyline Drive	Funded thru 2014
	Open space between Hwy 24 & Caldecott/ Tunnel Road w/ of Kay Overpass	unfunded
	Open space east of N. Oakland Sports Field south of upper Broadway	unfunded
	Open space both sides of Caldecott tunnel	unfunded
	Open space west of N. Oakland Sports Field south of upper Broadway	unfunded
	Eucalyptus grove above N. Oakland Sports Field service road	unfunded
	Roadside clearance Highway 24 and 13 including interchange	unfunded
	Eucalyptus trees north end of Highway 13	unfunded
	Open space east of Lake Temescal west of power station	unfunded
	Hillside Montclair Park	volunteers unfunded
	Montclair hills aging pine, cypress and eucalyptus	unfunded
	Joaquin Miller Park	unfunded

Agency or Group	Project or Strategy	Status
Pacific Gas and Electric	High voltage distribution lines	???
San Francisco PUC	1. Alameda Watershed Management Plan implementation - San Antonio and Calaveras Reservoirs	???
University of California Berkeley	1. FEMA EIS for Grant Funding for projects in Claremont Canyon & Strawberry Canyon	Ongoing Funded