

# Alameda County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Community Wildfire Protection Plan Workshops



Freemont – July 16, 2011

Oakland – July 23, 2011

Dublin – July 30, 2011

## Attendees:

Yeda Altes

Ken Benson

Dinah Benson

Shelagh Brodersen

Joelle Crepsoc

James Gearhart

Barbara Goldenberg

Diane Hill

Jerry Kent

Dee McDonough

Sue Piper

Jay Swardenski

Douglas Wong

Rodger Wong

## Comments from Workshops:

- Concern over fires starting off of Morrison Canyon Road. In previous years this single lane road was closed to non-resident traffic during 4<sup>th</sup> of July and other high fire days.
- City ordinances do not permit closure of public road. Hikers and bikers also use this road. Similar conditions exist along Canyon Heights, Niles Canyon, Mills Canyon with narrow canyons, often with creeks and steep canyon walls. Police officers and fire staff make up patrol enforcement teams. Treat 10' of the right of way to reduce fuels. Funding cuts have reduced the number of inspectors but property owners are required to abate fuels. For three to five acre parcels they have to cut vegetation around the perimeter and mow or disk grass to 3" height prior to fire season.
- Concern over opening of Vargas Plateau (new East Bay Regional Park District lands) to public with campfires and smoking.
- Concern over how to get the community interested in fire safety. Perhaps reach out through boy scouts (most active troop is Fremont troop 176 –use to have a “fireship” badge), Washington Hospital use to have disaster preparedness committee, Tri-City Council of Churches or Bill Marshall at the Tri-City Voice.
- What should landscape of the East Bay Hills be in 100 years?
- Interested in controlling invasive plants and wildfire safety in Garber Park
- How to strike new cords in community? Introduced to wildfire as a Calaveras County property owner with requirements for vegetation clearance for wildfire and

brought that information home to the East Bay. Participate in Montclair Improvement and Safety Council.

- Need to vary times of meetings and volunteer opportunities – Garber Park volunteers have both Saturday and Tuesday evening workdays. Take meetings to the neighbors and their groups. Some of the active groups include Beaconsfield, Sausal Creek watershed group, Garber Park. Other active outreach has been done at farmer’s markets or through church groups.
- Many CWPPs have a lot of input from agencies. Good to see outreach efforts for the Alameda County Plan.
- Concern about 75<sup>th</sup>, Hillmont and Outlook area in Oakland with ignitions from kids. Lots of juniper and open space where ownership is uncertain.
- Only about 1/3 of the people now living in the Tunnel Fire area were there in 1991. Most don’t understand why the issue is important. Need to focus that management activities need to happen year round.
- Need to change view of landscape as fuel – which it can be both pretty and fire safe. But landscape must be managed all year round with an understanding of the plant’s lifespan.
- Neighborhood connections – a neighborhood is only as strong (or fire safe) as its weakest link
- Fire brands as ignition sources – need more information about the distances these can travel
- Get general message into CORE (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies – Oakland’s CERT equivalent program). Fire and defensible space information should be provided to all residents even those living in the flatlands given that fire brands can land miles from the hills.
- Educate at teachable moment – when is that for wildfire?
  - When people are buying plants, landscapers and home depot type stores – teach about placement and species
  - Welcome packets for homeowners
  - Firewise volunteers (how to use volunteers)
  - Small home owners associations that make personal connections (such as Vicente canyon welcome packets)
- Projects and grants – use other projects as models. Need to be able to see good ideas and be able to contact those people that can help develop the project plan or grant (resource people such as those associated with Garber Park). Develop a resource list of who can help and list local project models. Other organizations such as: Merritt College or UC Berkeley who may have students looking for class projects, Sausal Creek (paid staff and grant writers) and Claremont Canyon Conservancy. May be other resources or organizations that we can partner with.
- Trees in the hills are near the end of their life span. Need a plan for how to deal with these aged trees and what to replace them with.
- Expert expectation. Uniform fire department staff and researchers seen as authorities. Utilize them as resources.
- Cal Trans mitigation – West Oakland Coalition looking at what is being replanted.
- Loss of expertise as firefighters who experienced 1991 fire are nearing retirement.

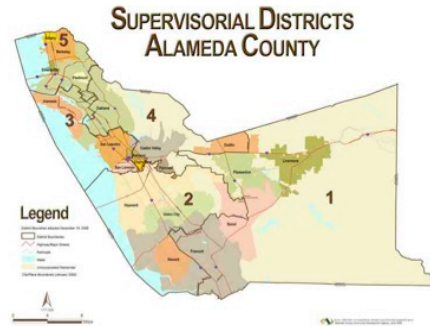
- Oakland parcel tax for Wildfire Prevention Assessment District and renewal of district.
- Priorities for budget – direct consequence of general fund issues.
- Inspectors could be volunteers.

Additional comments from Surveys:

- Vargas and Morrison Canyon Road. Desire to limit non-resident traffic during high fire season. Concern over increase of traffic due to public opening of Vargas Plateau - no provision for enhanced fire safety.

# Community Input

## Alameda County Community Wildfire Protection Plan



# Help build the

## Alameda County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Now that the rains are finally over it's time to prepare for wildfires. Help develop a community wildfire protection plan for Alameda County. We want your input on wildfire risks and hazards. Share your concerns and local knowledge.

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaboratively developed plan that identifies wildland fire hazards, prioritizes way to reduce those hazards and recommends measures for homeowners and communities to reduce ignitability of structures. The Diablo Fire Safe Council is working with local fire departments, Oakland Wildfire Assessment District, homeowner groups and others to develop such a plan for Alameda County.

Participate in our survey, take part in a workshop, or visit our website [www.diablofiresafe.org/ala\\_co\\_CWPP.html](http://www.diablofiresafe.org/ala_co_CWPP.html) for the latest updates.

Share your knowledge, test your wildfire awareness and learn more about what you can do to reduce the threat of wildfire.

For more information contact Cheryl Miller, (510) 536-0143 or email [DFSCMiller@comcast.net](mailto:DFSCMiller@comcast.net)

