



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Thursday, August 22, 2024 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Kensington Community Center-Meeting Room 3,
59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707 (and hybrid)

How to Submit Public Comments:

Prior to the meeting: Members of the public may submit public comment by emailing the Chair and Board Clerk by emailing: public.comment@kensingtonfire.org by 11:00am the day of the meeting. Such comments will be noted as received and their contents orally summarized; however, if you attend the meeting, you will need to make your comment during the meeting.

During the meeting: Public comment will be taken on each agenda item, and comment on issues not on the agenda will be taken at the beginning of the meeting (*regular meetings only*). Members of the public who attend the meeting either in-person or via Zoom are allowed to provide public comment verbally with a maximum allowance of 3 minutes per individual comment, subject to the Chair's discretion. Each member of the public will be allotted the same maximum number of minutes to speak as set by the Chair, except that public speakers using interpretation assistance will be allowed to testify for twice the amount of the public testimony time limit (California Government Code section 54954.3(a)).

In-person: At points in the meeting when the meeting chair requests public comment, members of the public participating in-person can simply raise their hand to be recognized.

Via Zoom: If participating via internet, please click the "raise hand" feature located within the Zoom application screen. If connected via telephone, please dial "*9" (star, nine).

Accommodations: To enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title 1), if you need special assistance to participate, please email public.comment@kensingtonfire.org 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Agenda and supplemental materials: This agenda is available on the KFPD website under the relevant meeting date: <https://www.kensingtonfire.org/emergency-preparedness-committee>. Please note that supplemental materials will be posted on the website with the agenda as soon as they are available prior to the meeting. Additional information and/or materials may be presented at the meeting itself.

PLEASE NOTE: The District will use Zoom to allow virtual access to this meeting. This additional means of access is provided as a courtesy to the public and is not required by law. The meeting will continue to be conducted at the physical address provided above regardless of any interruption or failure of the Zoom transmission.

Hybrid Meeting Option Internet Address:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85150861972?pwd=bbSSan5KltjFbd9MAY41iMuSqvH4RB.1>

Telephone Access:

(669) 444-9171 or (719) 359-4580 or (253) 205-0468

Zoom Webinar ID: 851 5086 1972

Passcode: 112233

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Directors: President Levine, Vice President Danielle Madugo
Public Members: Douglas Bevington, Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Adrienne Johnson, Peter Liddell, Paul Moss, David Spath
Staff: Consultant Mary Morris-Mayorga
Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Under “Public Comment,” the public may address the Committee on any subject not listed on the agenda. Please address your comments to the Committee and not to staff and/or the audience. Each speaker may address the Committee once under Public Comment for a limit of three minutes. The public will be given an opportunity to speak on each agenda item and once the public comment portion of any item on this agenda has been closed by the Committee, no further comment from the public will be permitted unless authorized by the Committee. The Committee cannot act on items not listed on the agenda and, therefore, cannot respond to non-agenda issues brought up under Public Comment other than to provide general information. Committee members will also have an opportunity to comment on items not on the agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

a. **Approval of Minutes** of the EPC regular meeting on 07/25/2024 (Supporting Material)

4. OLD BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Discussion and recommendation to the Board of action KFPD could take towards implementing the parking changes requested by residents** - Madugo
Action = Discussion, direction, and motion

b. **Contra Costa County’s reported response to Grand Jury Report – Madugo**
(Supporting Material)
In anticipation of the formal response, the committee will discuss whether there are avenues to pursue at this point in the process.
Action = Discussion, direction, and motion

c. **Provide EPC Workplan Activity Updates – All** (Supporting Material)
The committee will provide workplan activity updates that can be reported to the Board of Directors in September, if applicable.
Action = Discussion, direction, and motion

6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR’S REPORT – Valenzuela

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The list of future agenda items discussed during the meeting will be summarized here.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on September 26, 2024 at 4:00pm in person (Committee members) at the Kensington Community Center with hybrid option for attendees (guest speakers, public), unless noticed otherwise per the Brown Act.



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

DATE/TIME: July 25, 2024, 4:00PM

LOCATION: Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington (and hybrid)

PRESENT: Directors: President Daniel Levine, Vice President Danielle Madugo
Public Members: Douglas Bevington, Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Adrienne Johnson, Peter Liddell, Paul Moss,
Staff: Consultant Mary Morris-Mayorga
Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

ABSENT: Public Members: David Spath

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Levine called the regular meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and confirmed the roll call.

Moved/Seconded: Levine/Madugo **Action:** Approved remote participation of member Paul Moss due to illness **Ayes:** Bevington, Caronna, Gluck, Johnson, Levine, Liddell, Madugo
Noes: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Spath

Video Time Stamped: 00:00:46

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (00:03:17)

There was no public comment.

3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS (00:04:27)

a. Approval of Minutes EPC regular meeting: 06/27/2024

Moved/Seconded: Madugo/Moss **Action:** Approved minutes of the 6/27/2024 meeting
Ayes: Bevington, Caronna, Gluck, Johnson, Levine, Liddell, Madugo, Moss **Noes:** None
Abstain: None **Absent:** Spath

Video Time Stamped: 00:04:50

4. OLD BUSINESS (00:05:15)

a. Replanting Grant Focus Change to Clearing Grant

Draft language for the change in focus from Replanting to Clearing Grant was discussed at the June 27th meeting with feedback incorporated after that meeting. The revised language was discussed by the EPC with further refinements made.

Moved/Seconded: Caronna/Moss **Action:** Approved recommending the Hazardous Vegetation Removal Reimbursement Grant Program to the Board of Directors **Ayes:** Bevington, Caronna, Gluck, Johnson, Levine, Liddell, Madugo, Moss **Noes:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Spath

Video Time Stamped: 00:30:26

5. NEW BUSINESS (00:32:26)

a. Report of 2023-2024 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury: The CCC Community Warning System

The report was reviewed and discussed by the EPC which determined that it recommends that the Board consider approval of a resolution supporting relevant findings (F11, 12-16) and recommendations (R3-5) at the next BOD meeting.

b. Provide EPC Workplan Activity Updates (01:08:41)

6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT (01:25:40)

7. REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES (01:36:36)

Subcommittees were established last year, and the EPC determined that these have been superseded by the Work Plan.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9. ADJOURNMENT: President Levine adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on September 26, 2024 at 4:00pm in person (Committee members) at the Kensington Community Center with hybrid option for attendees (guest speakers, public), unless noticed otherwise per the Brown Act.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Mary Morris-Mayorga

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on August 22, 2024.

Attest: _____
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

Contra Costa County supervisors want to fix its problem-plagued emergency warning system. But the man who runs it may not be on board.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday agreed with a majority of the Civil Grand Jury's findings

Katie Lauer

August 16, 2024 at 6:00 a.m.



In August of 2012, TV news crews and the curious gather on a hillside in Point Richmond to photograph the fire in an oil unit at the Chevron refinery in Richmond. (D. Ross Cameron/Staff Archives)

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MARTINEZ — Chronic issues with Contra Costa County's Community Warning System (CWS) have sparked fears for years that alerts about wildfires, refinery incidents, earthquakes and other dangers will fail to keep residents safe.

While county leaders addressed some of those problems this week, what they didn't acknowledge is that one elected official holds ultimate authority over that system's operations — meaning any proposed fixes may fail to make any traction.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday agreed with a majority of the findings in an [ominous June report by the Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury](#), which found that only 30% of residents are enrolled in the CWS' current voluntary opt-in system. The county was also criticized for failing to establish alert

protocols to inform residents about less-impactful chemical releases, such as the flaring event last Thanksgiving that [showered 24 tons of toxic, dusty residue on neighbors living near the Martinez Refining Company](#).

These concerns are paramount in Contra Costa County, which [scores in the 99th percentile](#) for both overall risk and financial loss due to natural hazards.

Responding to the grand jury report, the supervisors recommended that the county conduct a comprehensive study of its emergency management and disaster response function — including its planning, communication, public outreach and training efforts.

County staff said they will explore ways to streamline internal staff notification procedures, enhance training verification for first responders and analyze the feasibility of installing new Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs). Staff said specific studies and a more expansive plan will return for board consideration before the end of 2024.

However, county officials still defended many of its current practices, including the Sheriff's Office's decision to utilize on-call CWS employees and law enforcement heads to confirm and coordinate warning messages, rather than training emergency dispatchers to send out alerts. While dispatchers are authorized to handle alerts related to refineries and chemical plants, Contra Costa County is the only Bay Area county that [does not train those same workers to operate the CWS during emergencies](#), according to a 2018 survey.

Julie Beach-Cavallero, the Community Warning System's manager, and Tim Ewell, chief assistant county administrator, argued that there already are several redundancies in place to reach as many people as possible during a disaster, including "reverse 911" alert protocols, hazardous material sirens, social media posts, campaigns to enroll more residents within the existing CWS and contracts to access contact info from utility and telecom provider data.

Supervisor John Gioia said that the civil grand jury's report and subsequent deadlines to implement a host of recommendations are "the best avenues we have" to study and expand the county's CWS and other alert systems, particularly involving new ways to better protect low-income communities that may have limited access to cell phones and other emergency resources.

"My concern always is that every impacted resident needs to be notified of anything that causes an impact to their health or requires them to take action," Gioia said in an interview Wednesday, referring to less critical incidents that lack mandated alerts, including refinery flaring. "I've seen the CWS in operation for a long time, and there's been gaps."

However, there's still a chance that this direction from county staff may not have much sway.

In Contra Costa County, the CWS is ultimately controlled by [Sheriff David Livingston](#), who is serving his fourth term since first being elected in 2010. While county officials can provide input through its [Industrial Safety Ordinance/Community Warning System Ad Hoc Committee](#) and [Emergency Services Policy Board](#), decisions about operations and improvements are ultimately Livingston's call.

Richmond City Councilmember Sohelia Bana said this governing structure — without many options for public input or criticism — is one of her biggest grievances that wasn't addressed this week.

Bana, who founded the West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council in 2022, wrote a letter to the grand jury last year after fruitless attempts to contact the Sheriff's Office about potential improvements to the CWS, many of which had previously been deemed too expensive, redundant or not worth the effort.

While she is pleased that county executives largely support efforts to improve emergency preparedness, Bana said she is disappointed that the supervisors did not ask — or even require — the

Sheriff's Office to provide more detailed information on how they internally test ongoing operations, respond to community complaints and plan for future improvements.

Specifically, she called out conflicting data about two evacuation drills the city of Richmond conducted in 2022 and 2023 that she said revealed half of the participants either did not receive alerts or were notified hours after the drill was complete.

The sheriff's office, however, claims that CWS data show a 90% successful delivery rate for both drills — outright rejecting the grand jury's findings that the county failed to verify, interrogate or study Richmond's concerns.

Bana said that staff within the Sheriff's Office "mocked her request" to schedule a meeting with the county's top cop, which she hoped would help improve communication channels and ensure their current practices are up to snuff.

"It's easier to make an appointment with God than with the sheriff," Bana said in an interview Wednesday. "We are asking for transparency, but the Sheriff is not accountable, he's not responsive — his office doesn't care about public safety."

[Livingston](#) and staff within the Sheriff's Office did not respond to requests for comment.

Bana said she's hopeful that she can continue to push for changes through the county's standing ad hoc committee and policy board meetings, which provide forums about the CWS and other emergency services.

"My only hope is to push for more citizen advisory or oversight for this whole thing," Bana said. "(The Sheriff's Office doesn't) get the significance or complex dimensions of the problem. I don't think they understand the weight of this."

Originally Published:



RESOLUTION 2024-08

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SUPPORTING FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT OF 2023-2024 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY: THE CCC COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Kensington Fire Protection District is a special district organized under the laws of the State of California and includes within its jurisdiction all properties in the unincorporated portion of the community of Kensington; and

WHEREAS, the Kensington Fire Protection District's mission is to provide the highest level of service to Kensington in order to protect the lives, property, and environment of the community from the disastrous effects of fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and other hazardous conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Kensington Fire Protection District's Emergency Preparedness Committee reviewed and recommends supporting key findings and recommendations of *The Report Of 2023-2024 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury: The CCC Community Warning System*.

Findings

- F11. Outdoor warning systems supplement other warning tools by providing acoustic (voice or siren sounds) to people who are outdoors.
- F12. Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs) can broadcast audible instructions to people outdoors when cell phones and other alert-receiving devices may not be working or heard.
- F13. A sound study is needed to evaluate where, if at all, LRADs might be effective in Contra Costa County.
- F14. Sites where LRADs could be located would need to be identified for any areas in which LRADs are found to be effective.
- F15. The County would incur a cost for a sound study on the feasibility to deploy LRADs within the County.
- F16. There is no estimate of the cost for an independent, third party to conduct a feasibility study for the use of LRADs within the County.

Recommendations

- R3. By December 31, 2024, the Board of Supervisors should commission a sound study by an independent, third party to determine the feasibility of deploying LRADs in any areas of the County.
- R4. By June 30, 2025, the Office of the Sheriff should train employees in the Sheriff's dispatch center to operate the CWS.
- R5. By March 31, 2025, the Office of the Sheriff should implement a plan to conduct testing of the CWS to determine the causes of the failure of CWS alerts to reach all the intended recipients of test alerts within 10 – 20 minutes of the time the alert is sent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby supports the aforementioned findings and recommendations of The Report Of 2023-2024 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury: The CCC Community Warning System.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on the 21st day of August 2024 by the following vote of the Board.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Daniel Levine, President

Rick Artis, Secretary



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
2024-2025 Emergency Preparedness Committee Work Plan
Emergency Preparedness Committee
August 22, 2024 Meeting

Approved by KFPD Board of Directors on June 19, 2024

Planned Projects	Lead Member	Questions/ Resources Needed	Action Steps	Status Reporting
1. Develop and distribute the Evacuation Plan package to all residences.	Moss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board approval of design and distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring to the April board meeting - DONE • National Night Out/Block Parties – emphasize importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Distribution of information has been completed</i>
2. Assist in developing a good relationship and planning with East Bay Regional Park District to address fire concerns with Tilden Park.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would a coordinated effort by KFPD look like? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop questions and talking points for the Board/Staff for collaboration. • <i>Understand boundaries/responsibilities of Kensington.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
3. Establish a small subcommittee to interact with the Emergency Preparedness Committee, the Fire Chief, and the Police Chief to determine what form of CERT Kensington can build now given resources and capabilities that can evolve over time.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local CERT classes • Integration of municipal services • Reaching out to volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan • Bring plan to EPC • Present to BOD • Target event for May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EC Fire is planning training (details by mid-August).</i>
4. Develop and promote specific action items for House Hardening to citizens (e.g. fire screens, etc.)	Madugo Bevington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop information • Distribute via Spring Fire Plug and District website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
5. Determine next steps for Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding, grant writing • Cellular network concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess funding/cellular • Bring back to EPC • Coordinate with KPD • Grand Jury BOD Resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

6. Develop volunteer program guide/resources. <i>(The District should develop a BOD policy to cover volunteer activities).</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consult with district counsel ● Confirm insurance requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop policy (GM) for BOD Approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
7. Assess the feasibility for an evacuation drill or tabletop exercise in coordination with the Fire Chief and Police Chief.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does Kensington have the resources for this? ● Test message drill? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine resources ● Potential for once PD has resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>No drill planned for this year.</i>