



Office of the City Manager

January 9, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Update on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

In 2022, the Fire Department collaborated with stakeholders from Parks, Recreation and Waterfront, Planning, Public Works, and the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission to develop the City's first Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

In addition to the CWPP, staff and consultants worked together to develop an action plan to accompany the report that will guide the necessary work to achieve higher protection and resiliency from wildfire. Staff requests comments and feedback from Council Members on the attached action plan prior to posting on our public forum on the [City of Berkeley CWPP Hub](#) for resident commenting.

#### Timeline

- January: Council review of action plan
- February 22: Present draft report and action plan to Disaster and Fire Safety Commission for feedback and public comment
- February 15 – March 15: The CWPP will be posted for public feedback
- April: Incorporate feedback into the CWPP report (including action plan)
- May: Present final draft of CWPP to Council for adoption

We welcome any comments or feedback. Please contact Chief Sprague if you would like to schedule a meeting to provide live feedback.

cc: LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager  
Sharon Friedrichsen, Budget Manager  
Henry Oyekanmi, Finance Director  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager  
Jenny Wong, City Auditor

Priority	Strategy	Program/ Project	Location	Role/ Responsibility (who will carry out the project)	Beneficiary (who will benefit from project)	Time Requirement	Effort required
1.1	Prevention	City workforce (for outreach + vegetation removal crews)	Zone 2 & 3	City staff	Private property owner	Moderate	Moderate
1.1a	Prevention	Implement appropriate initial and on-going training for fire inspectors responsible for conducting the annual Defensible Space Inspections.	Zone 2 & 3	City staff	Private property owner	Short-term	Easy
1.2	Prevention	City inspectors for risk assessment of individual property and homes	Zone 2 & 3	City staff	Private property owner	On-going (existing + expansion)	Moderate
1.3	Prevention	Public awareness & education campaign; multi-language. Including partnerships and community engagement. Partner community groups (Firewise, HOAs, Hillside Fire Safety Group).	City wide	City staff + partners	City wide residents	On-going (existing + expansion)	Easy
1.3a	Prevention	Ensure outreach, education, and response messages are provided in multiple formats to ensure effective communication with all community members.	City wide	City staff	City wide residents	On-going (existing + expansion)	Easy
1.3b	Prevention	Work cooperatively to educate private landowners on fire-safe and defensible measures to increase compliance with regulations.	Zone 2 & 3	City staff	Private property owner	On-going (existing + expansion)	Easy
1.3c	Prevention	Support neighborhood collaboration to reach NFPA Firewise certification. Provide financial incentives to support participation by all community members, including low-income households.	Zone 2 & 3	City staff + Resident	Residents zone 2 & 3)	On-going (existing + expansion)	Easy
1.4	Prevention	Fire weather information (red flag alerts)	City wide	City staff + NOAA + partners	City wide residents	On-going (existing + expansion)	Easy
1.4a	Prevention	Collaborate with HHCS to incorporate community readiness for fire weather and wildfire into existing outreach programs.	City wide	City staff	City wide residents	On-going (existing + expansion)	Easy
1.4b	Prevention	Conduct community-facing exercises to build community capacity to protect health and safety during fire weather and wildfires.	City wide	Fire	City wide residents	Moderate	Hard
2.1	Safety & Evacuation	Road network - safe passages in road right-of-way (striping, no parking signs +enforcement, travelway obstructions)	Zone 2 & 3 ROWs	City staff	Residents zone 2 & 3 (zone 1 along major evacuation routes)	Moderate term - expand ongoing	Hard
2.1a	Safety & Evacuation	Coordinate with partners to develop and adopt joint emergency notification and evacuation procedures for use in wildfires that cross jurisdictional boundaries.	City wide + Regional	City staff + partners	City wide	Moderate	Moderate
2.1b	Safety & Evacuation	Design, procure, install, and maintain a citywide Outdoor Warning System to enhance public alerting during evacuations.	City wide	City staff + partners	City wide	Moderate, sequenced w/ 2.1a	Hard
2.2	Safety & Evacuation	Evacuation assistance (residents' recognition of limits of available assistance)	Zone 2 & 3	City staff + Resident	Residents zone 2 & 3 (zone 1 along major evacuation routes)	Moderate term	Moderate
2.3	Safety & Evacuation	Ingress/ egress route planning	Zone 2 & 3	City staff	City staff + Resident	On-going (existing + expansion)	Moderate
2.3a	Safety & Evacuation	Identify areas that may serve as temporary areas of refuge for responders and community members during wildfire events.	City wide	City staff + Resident	City staff + Resident	Moderate	Hard
3.1	Resident Mitigation	Vegetation removal around homes - Defensible space + inspections and enforcement (including undeveloped properties + vacant homes) + criteria for "hazardous vegetation"	Zone 2 & 3	City staff + Resident	Private property owner	Moderate term expand ongoing	Moderate
3.1a	Resident Mitigation	Replace highly flammable invasive species with a low drought tolerance and easily spread without intentional propagation.	Zone 2 & 3	Property owner	Private property owner	Ongoing	Moderate
3.1b	Resident Mitigation	Use public open spaces as demonstration areas for Zone 0 landscaping.	City wide	City staff	Private property owner in Zone 2&3	Short term	Moderate
3.2	Resident Mitigation	Incentives to create Zone 0 around homes. Remove easily ignitable materials on homes (paper, fabric, plastics). Criteria for "non-combustible" materials.	Zone 2 & 3	City staff + Resident	Private property owner	Moderate term	Moderate
3.3	Resident Mitigation	Home hardening retrofit of existing structures - retrofit guide, trainings/ consultations + incentives + inspections and enforcement	Zone 2 & 3	City staff + Resident	Private property owner	Moderate term	Moderate
4.1	Wildfire Response	Fire ignition detection/ enforcement (technology, fire patrols (Fire Dept + volunteers), closures/ restrictions, enforcement of no fireworks, no open flame, no smoking, portable BBQs )	City wide + Regional	City staff + Partners + Residents	City wide	On-going - existing + new technologies	Easy - Moderate
4.2	Wildfire Response	Regional pre-attack coordination (including temporary fire fighter refuges/ safety zone, conditions to fight fire or not + mutual/ automatic aid + training +update hazard/ risk assessments)	City wide + Regional	City staff + Partners	City wide	On-going (existing + expansion)	Easy - Moderate
4.2a	Wildfire Response	Design, procure, and maintain apparatus, equipment, and trained personnel capable of delivering emergency water in the event that water delivery infrastructure is insufficient. This shall include wildland fire command vehicles, fire attack vehicles, water tenders, and a system to deliver sustained water over multiple days.	City wide + Regional	City staff	City wide + Regional	Ongoing	Hard
4.2b	Wildfire Response	Review and update existing mutual and automatic aid agreements to improve fire suppression resources	City wide + Regional	City staff	City wide + Regional	Short term	Moderate
5.1	Large-scale landscape Treatment	Incentive for wildfire hazardous tree and vegetation management within 100' of homes (cost share, SNAP, chipping, green waste , eucalyptus management, etc.)	Zone 2 & 3	City staff + Resident	Private property owner	On-going	Moderate
5.2	Large-scale landscape Treatment	Hazardous tree and vegetation removal on public property (parks and roadsides) + collaboration with agency partners for adjacent lands	City wide	City staff	City wide	On-going (existing + expansion)	Moderate
5.2a	Large-scale landscape Treatment	Work with partner departments to maintain public open spaces and urban forests so that ground fuels are less likely to promote the ignition and spread of wildfire and aerial fuels are less likely to the spread fire through the tree canopy.	City lands	City staff	City wide	Long term	Moderate
5.3	Large-scale landscape Treatment	Promote urban forest health through removal of dead and dying trees (private and public lands)	City wide	City staff + Resident	City wide	Long term	Moderate
5.3a	Large-scale landscape Treatment	Balance and integrate fuel modification with habitat and open space management, vegetative soil cover/erosion management, and urban greening, to reduce the potential for conflicts between safety and environmental goals.	City wide	City staff + Resident	City wide	Long term	Hard
5.3b	Large-scale landscape Treatment	Work with public landowners and fire departments adjacent to the City to disrupt fuel continuity in key fire pathways and provide fuel breaks in key strategic areas and near points of special interest.	Zone 2 & 3 + Regional	City staff + Partners	City wide	Long term	Hard