

DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

August 7, 2024

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet
District 3 – Todd Darling
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 6 – Greg Murphy
District 7 – Harrison Raine
District 8 – Theo Gordon

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at:

Present:

Absent:

LOA: Raine

Approval of the Agenda

Discussion –

Agenda approved as amended by Acclamation or Vote?

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

public speakers.

1. Chairperson's Report

2. Fire Department Staff Report*

REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 3. Action:** Approve Minutes of June 26, 2024
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the June 26, 2024 regular meeting.
Written Material: June 26, 2024 Draft Minutes
- 4. Action:** Discuss and approve DFSC feedback on LHMP (Bradstreet)
Recommendation: Submit Feedback to Mitigation@berkeleyca.gov
Written Material:
- 5. Discussion/Action:** Changing registration with AC Alert to an “opt out” System.
- 6. Recommendation:**
1. The DFSC proposes to the City Council that they Recommend a change in the registration, testing, and operations of the AC Alert System to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.
The changes the DFSC would like the City to propose to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors are similar to the policy recommendations proposed by the Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on May 31, 2024.
 2. Form a working group to draft a Council Report based on the recommendation discussion.
 3. And, to draft a Memo from the DFSC to East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governance.
- Written Material:**
1. Email of proposal to the DFSC from the Berkeley Fire Safe Council dated June 26, 2024
 2. Attachment to the email of summary revised by the Berkeley Fire Safe Council from material originally Produced by Sheila Bana, Chair, West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council
 3. Summary of recommendations from the Contra Costa Civil Grand Jury to the CCC Board of Supervisors dated May 31, 2024

Presentation:

7. Work Group Reports

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach

8. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

-

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn:

Second:

By acclamation at [TIME]:

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, kmay@berkeleyca.gov 510-981-5508.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE

## DFSC Staff Report

August 7, 2024

### 1. Measure FF Monthly Report

#### a. Budget Overview –

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report **due in October**

#### i. Program Review

- **WUI Interns** – The Interns provide Berkeley Fire Department with a trained, mobile and mission-specific workforce that is principally assigned to monitor vegetative hazardous fuel on or near structures, collect data, and identify reduction activities
  - **Updates:** We graduated 11 new interns in June that brought our total number of working inspectors to 16. We are doing some fuel mitigation on public land, such as parks, paths, etc. The WUI team spent three days at the Berkeley’s Tuolumne camp doing inspections and fuel mitigation. The focus was on the light flashy fuels that abound due to the little tree cover following the Rim Fire.
- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections –**
  - Updates:** We have soft-launched the Eucalyptus Understory Cleanup for the addresses off of Wildcat, and look forward to expanding the program to the rest of the VHFDSZ in the coming weeks. We have also run our inspection process all the way to citation in Panoramic, and will be continuing that final step in the remaining zones through this year.
- **Safe Passage** - The Fire Department has contracted with a vendor to help the City of Berkeley meet requirements outlined in SB 99, AB 747, and AB 1409, provide City with professional services in the areas of traffic and evacuation modeling and planning, given various evacuation and/or emergency response scenarios as determined by the City.
  - **Update:** No New Updates.

#### ii. Implementation & Metrics

- **Outdoor Warning System** – We have worked through the issue with the installation of the 14<sup>th</sup> OWS at Live Oak Park. Hoping it will be completed by end of September.
2. Measure GG Monthly Report
    - a. Budget Overview – No new update
    - b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November  
Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February  
Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May  
Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report **due in October**
  3. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures. (*Measure FF has funded the study only*)
    - a. Update: **No new update**
  4. Department Activities
    - a. **City Council Budget Approval Items** – The City Council approved several Fire Department items for the next two-year City budget cycle:
      - i. 260k annually for Street Trauma Prevention. This temporary, four-year position will be created in the new Strategic Programs and Projects Division. This position will be responsible for helping the City reduce the number of pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities while better defining and communicating the Departments concerns with response time to the most critical incidents.
      - ii. 300k for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) replacement. We have a large group that will need to be replaced in this budget cycle and did not have the funds in the baseline budget.
      - iii. 800k for large apparatus lease. This has represented months of work and discussions between Fire and Public Works, Finance and the Budget Office. This will provide the funding to allow us to move forward with a new lease agreement for three Type I engines and two aerials. Of course, the lead time to build is 36-48 months, but this secures us a place in line.
      - iv. 40k annually for Cancer prevention. We figured out a way to pay for the baseline scans for all eligible members that meet the criteria, but we didn't have the on-going funding to sustain these.
      - v. 70k one-time funding for firehouse upgrades. The Council recognizes that while we are not in an emergency, but that many of our stations are nearing end of life over the next 10 years.
      - vi. 200k annually for a dedicated mechanic that is certified to work on all of our fire apparatus. This alleviates having to transport apparatus to vendors outside of the Bay Area for service and repairs.

- b. Emergency Medical Services –
  - i. EMS 3 Academy personnel recently started their field training and evaluations.
  - ii. EMS 4 Academy candidates are going through the final background checks and the academy will begin in September.
  - iii. Ems 5 Academy is in the recruitment phase and we are hoping to start that academy in December.
  
- c. **Annual Regional Wildfire Exercise:** We know when the next fire ignites in the East Bay Hills and gains traction, we will either be providing or receiving mutual aid. Developing and maintaining relationships with our regional fire service partners makes operations during those low-frequency, high-risk events run much smoother. On June 24, 26 and 28 we participated in a 2024 regional wildfire exercises that occurred on the eastern edge of the City and into Tilden Park.
  
- d. **The BEAR Unit** has been temporarily put on hold due to technical issues surrounding hiring for the unit. If you recall, the Fire Department was approved by City Council to launch a new program to address the high demands of 9-1-1 call volume in the City of Berkeley. We designed a medical unit staffed with a Physician Assistant and a Senior Paramedic to provide a better and more effective service to the community by adding the benefit of being able to deliver primary health care to patients without having to transport them to the emergency department.

5. Grants

- a. **SAFER Grant Planning:** We were not successful in this grant cycle but have retained the services of a grant writer and will be resubmitting in the next cycle.
  - i. No New Updates.

6. Call Volume Report

| Fire Department Report by California Incident Type                                                                          |           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                                                                                                             | June 2024 | July 2024 |
| <b>Fires – including Encampment Fires</b> (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney, | 44        | 45        |
| <b>Encampment Fires</b> (structures, warming/cooking, debris)                                                               | 44        | 40        |

Public

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Explosion</b> - no fire<br>(overpressure ruptures,<br>explosions)                                                                                                                                                       | 0                      | 1                      |
| <b>Rescue &amp; EMS</b> (medical assist,<br>vehicle accident)                                                                                                                                                              | 899                    | 768                    |
| <b>Hazardous Condition</b> - no fire<br>(combustible spills/leaks,<br>chemical release, radioactive<br>condition, electrical wiring<br>problem, biological hazard,<br>potential accident w/<br>building/aircraft/vehicles) | 41                     | 31                     |
| <b>Service Calls</b> (person in<br>distress, water issue,<br>smoke/odor problem, animal<br>issue, public assist, cover<br>assignment/standby)                                                                              | 100                    | 109                    |
| <b>Good Intent</b> (canceled en-<br>route, wrong location, nothing<br>found, steam mistaken for<br>smoke)                                                                                                                  | 93                     | 92                     |
| <b>False Alarm Calls</b> (malicious,<br>malfunction, unintentional,<br>biohazard scare)                                                                                                                                    | 180                    | 163                    |
| <b>Severe WX</b> (lightening, wind<br>storms)                                                                                                                                                                              | 0                      | 0                      |
| <b>Special Incidents</b> (citizen<br>complaints)                                                                                                                                                                           | 5                      | 7                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>1,361</b>           | <b>1,216</b>           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Apparatus Count</b> | <b>Apparatus Count</b> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>3,026</b>           | <b>2,98940</b>         |

**DFSC Action Tracker**

| Date of DFSC Action | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10/25/2023</b>   | Provide a recommendation to City Council on the development of a plan that includes a feasibility study and identification of funding sources for constructing an emergency secondary access/egress road on Panoramic Hill | The Public Safety Committee concurred with the Fire Department Companion Report. The item will go back to Council for final approval.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>3/24/2024</b>    | Support The Fire Department To Fund a Program Manager II Position                                                                                                                                                          | City Council approved funding for the Street Trauma Prevention. This temporary, four-year position will be created in the new Strategic Programs and Projects Division. This position will be responsible for helping the City reduce the number of pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities while better defining and communicating the Departments concerns with response time to the most critical incidents. |

# MONTHLY DASHBOARD | June & July, 2024



Prepared for the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission by the Berkeley Fire Department

## Defensible Space Inspections

This is a two month report for June 1-30 & July 1-31 2024

### Significant Statistics

### JUNE

537

385

218

0

30

80

71

32%

5

### JULY

1,840 Inspections

2,089 Recommended actions for home hardening and defensible space

866 Violations

0 Citations

202 Re-inspections

136 Resolved Items

98 Resolved Violations

36% Full Inspection Access

17 Number of Inspectors

### Year to Date- 2024

4,182 Total Inspections

1,487 Violations

238 Re-Inspections

00 Citations

377 Resolved Violations

## Chipper Day Program

2024 Program Data

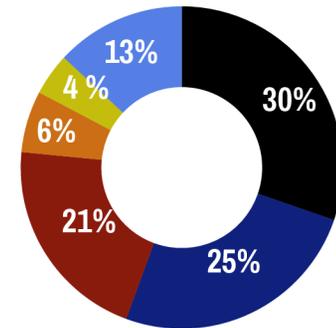
### June & July

821 Cubic yards of flammable material removed

301 Completed pickups city-wide

8 Weeks Completed

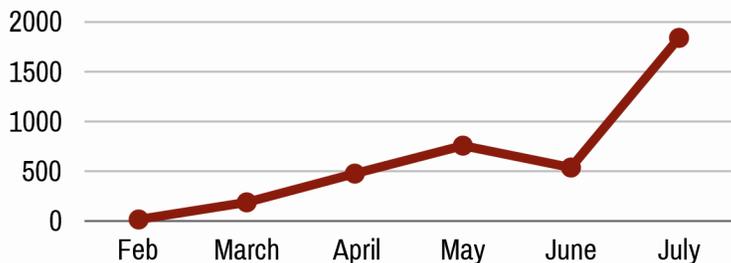
83 % of surveyed residents stated that the chipping program caused them to remove vegetation on their property



### Types of Vegetation Removed by Residents

- Lower Tree Limbs
- Dead Vegetation
- Vegetation in Zone Zero
- Bamboo/Palms
- Cypress/Juniper
- Other

## Number of Inspections by Month



### Special Announcements

**County Coordinator** - Awarded grant for Alameda County and leveraging existing contract for planning activities. Recruitment will begin in August.

**Eucalyptus Program**- Wildland Division launched Eucalyptus Understory Cleanup Pilot Program.

**Intern Academy**- 11 interns were hired and completed a 3 week academy from June 10th - June 27. Interns are actively inspecting properties in Fire Zones 2 & 3.

# DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING

June 26, 2024

7:00 PM

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### AGENDA

#### Preliminary Matters

##### Call to Order

*Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM*

*Present: Wilson, Bradstreet, Dean, Murphy, Gordon, Katz [arrived 7:02pm],  
Kinosian [arrived 7:03pm], Darling [arrived 7:06pm]*

*Absent: Raine*

##### Approval of the Agenda

*Motion to approve: Murphy*

*Second: Dean*

*Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Dean, Murphy, Gordon*

*Nays: 0*

*Abstain: 0*

*Agenda Approved*

##### Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

*4 Public speakers*

1. Chairperson's Report

Chair noted rising COVID rates and reminded fellow Commissioners that if they feel ill they should stay home. If a Commissioner's item is agendaized at a meeting for which they must stay home sick, the Chair is committed to ensuring that the item will be set as item #4 at the following meeting.

2. Fire Department Staff Report\*

**REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS** *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

**3. Action:** Minutes of May 22, 2024  
**Recommendation:** Approve the draft minutes of the May 22, 2024 regular meeting.  
**Written Material:** May 22, 2024 Draft Minutes  
**Presentation:** N/A  
*Motion to approve: Dean  
Second: Wilson  
Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Dean, Murphy, Gordon, Katz, Kinosian, Darling  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0*

**4. Action:** Support Of The Grizzly Peak Mitigation Project (Gordon)  
**Recommendation:** Recommendation To Support Vegetation Management in Fire Zones  
**Written Material:** Council Report and Resolution  
**Presentation:** N/A  
1 Public Speaker  
*Motion to approve the recommendation: Katz  
Second: Wilson  
Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Dean, Murphy, Gordon, Katz, Kinosian, Darling  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0*

**5. Discussion:** Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (Staff)  
**Recommendation:** N/A  
**Written Material:** First Draft 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan available at <https://BerkeleyCA.gov/Mitigation>  
**Presentation:** First Draft 2024 LHMP PowerPoint Presentation  
3 Public Speakers

**Extended meeting to 9:15pm by unanimous consent.**

- 6. Action:** Ad-Hoc LHMP Workgroup (Bradstreet)  
**Recommendation:** Create ad-hoc Workgroup to document proposed DFSC feedback on First Draft LHMP for action at August 7 2024 meeting  
**Written Material:** N/A  
**Presentation:** N/A

0 Public Speakers

*Motion to approve the recommendation: Bradstreet*

*Second: Murphy*

*Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Dean, Murphy, Gordon, Katz, Kinosian, Darling*

*Nays: 0*

*Abstain: 0*

**7. Work Group Reports**

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach

**8. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps**

- a. Fulfill by emailing Commission Secretary and Chair

**Adjournment**

*Motion to approve: Bradstreet*

*Second: Kinosian*

*Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Dean, Murphy, Gordon, Katz, Kinosian, Darling*

*Nays: 0*

*Abstain: 0*

**Meeting adjourned 9:14 pm**

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*communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.*

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SECRETARY SIGNATURE

DRAFT

| Action Description                                                                                                      | Proposed Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                | Priority Level | Related Natural Hazard(s)      | How would this benefit underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations?                                                           | Lead Office, Division, or Department              | Funding Sources                                                | Timeline                                 | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reduce fire risk in existing development through vegetation management.                                                 | Explore options for developing a City-run hand crew to implement vegetation management projects on public and private property.                                                                                    | High           | WUI Fire                       | Expand access to vegetation management. Potential workforce development opportunity people who were formerly incarcerated.                    | Fire Department - WUI Division                    | Measure FF                                                     | Long Term                                | Action considered but for longer time than in the next five years.                                                                                                                                                 |
| Reduce fire risk through community-focused education, training, and fire code updates.                                  | Conduct multi-unit-residential building inspections in all Fire Zones.                                                                                                                                             | High           | WUI Fire                       | Lower income people live in multi-residential-unit housing.                                                                                   | Fire Department - Fire Prevention                 | General Fund                                                   | Ongoing                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Reduce fire risk through community-focused education, training, and fire code updates.                                  | Using community volunteers, through WUI Ambassador Program, to educate people city-wide on vegetation management, home hardening, and defensible space.                                                            | High           | WUI Fire                       | Expand access to educational programs and reach people who would not otherwise receive information.                                           | Fire Department - WUI Division                    | Measure FF                                                     | Short term (1-5 years)                   | Pilot program in 2023-24, need to evaluate what next steps might be                                                                                                                                                |
| Reduce fire risk through community-focused education, training, and fire code updates.                                  | Conduct annual building inspections in all Fire Zones.                                                                                                                                                             | High           | WUI Fire                       |                                                                                                                                               | Fire Department - Fire Prevention                 | General Fund                                                   | Ongoing                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Advance opportunities for water reuse.                                                                                  | Research and support opportunities to advance purple pipe implementation.                                                                                                                                          | Medium         | Multi                          | Increases the security of Berkeley's water supplies from climate change impacts for all residents                                             | Planning and Public Works                         | EBMUD is expected to fund                                      | 2024-2030 (estimated)                    | Goal, but not the top of the priority list                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Reduce Berkeley's vulnerability to extreme heat events and associated hazards.                                          | Tree planting/urban forestry program                                                                                                                                                                               | High           | Poor Air Quality, Extreme Heat | Reduces heat island effect, mitigates through carbon sequestration                                                                            | Parks and Rec                                     | In progress; needs PRW vetting and input                       | In progress; needs PRW vetting and input | Some new actions included around urban forestry, but room to build out more capacity in the future                                                                                                                 |
| Reduce flood risk                                                                                                       | Nature based solutions at shoreline                                                                                                                                                                                | Medium         | Flooding                       | Underserved communities are most likely to live in/near areas that would be impacted                                                          | Public Works and Parks                            | Needs PRW/PW vetting and input                                 | Needs PRW/PW vetting and input           | Some new actions included around nature based solutions on the shoreline, but room to build out more capacity in the future                                                                                        |
| Implement existing City programs, plans, and projects designed to reduce emissions that contribute to poor air quality. | Continue to manage on-street parking and maintain City parking garages to reduce emissions by making it easier to find a parking space more quickly (reducing the time spent circling around looking for parking). | Air Quality    | Extreme Heat, Poor Air Quality | Poor air quality disproportionately impacts communities of color, and South and West Berkeley.                                                | Public Works Department - Transportation Division | City funds, County Transportation Sales Tax, and Grant Funding | Ongoing                                  | This is something that the City does and has infrastructure for, but not entirely sure the research is there that it helps reduce emissions. Further work to expand air quality mitigation measures for next round |
| Strengthen or replace City buildings in the identified prioritized order as funding is available.                       | South Berkeley Senior Center                                                                                                                                                                                       | High           | Multihazard                    | The South Berkeley Senior Center serves South Berkeley, the area of Berkeley with higher numbers of people of color and low income residents. | Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department      | CRC grant                                                      | Short term (1-5 years)                   | The City applied for a CRC grant to fund this effort, but was not awarded. New funding must be identified.                                                                                                         |

## May, Keith

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**From:** Todd Darling <todddarlingfilms@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 01, 2024 11:11 AM  
**To:** May, Keith  
**Cc:** Weldon Bradstreet; Theo Gordon; Greg Murphy  
**Subject:** Re: LHMP Item

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Chief May and fellow Commissioners:

Here are my additions to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- 1) We should add "Vapor Pressure Deficit" to our metrics in determining when to warn residents of potential fire hazard. Vapor Pressure Deficit measures the dryness in the atmosphere that has the propensity to suck moisture out of all vegetation. A spike in the Vapor Pressure Deficit signals dangerous fire conditions. This index should be monitored.
- 2) We need to insert language that the Planning Department should not/cannot announce zoning or planning changes without first consulting with the Fire Department and this commission. Berkeley is a densely populated town, one of the densest places in California. The Planning Dept clearly wants to make it even denser. The Fire Department and this Commission need to remind Planner of our actual carrying capacity. Density should not impose increased, unmitigated danger. Changes in planning ordinances and codes must be vetted by this Commission and the Fire Department staff. The lack of a good policy just resulted in a botched presentation from the Planning Department this past week.
  - a) City streets need to be considered when planning or approving multi-story developments. The spate of plans on the two lane section of Shattuck between Derby and the border with Oakland would seem to strain our ability to move people and equipment on that narrow stretch. There are numerous retail operations on this street - most importantly the Berkeley Bowl grocery store, What will be the impact if several multi-story buildings go up? A fire or earthquake in the late afternoon could be calamitous if fire trucks had to access these blocks.
- 3) In terms of climate resilience Berkeley needs to take measures to protect roof top solar panels, especially those attached to batteries. Right now, solar arrays have little or no value in the planning process. **Solar access must be prioritized in planning.** In power blackouts, these roof top arrays, attached to batteries could be our main source of power, apart from emergency generators attached to buildings. But, these arrays do not require any fuel.
- 4) Berkeley should research and adopt measures to establish "micro-grids" based on solar panels in neighborhoods. This could be vital to power medical equipment, cooling, communication, and water pumps.
- 5) With the increased impacts of climate change Berkeley should heed the UN scientists who have determined that any structure over five stories is not carbon neutral and cannot generate adequate power to keep itself going. (I can supply the quotation and report). The UN panel does say this will have an impact on urban density, but that it is more important that density.
- 6) With more intense storms, Berkeley needs to review its flood and water flow rules, ordinances and regulations. Right now, the Planning Department says that there are no rules regulating run-off from one property onto another. If true, this needs to be addressed, given that we have stronger storms, the water table is rising, and the sea level is rising. New or old developments may start to cause problems with how their water does, or does not drain from their property. This is especially important along historic creeks, storm drains, hillsides, and new developments with excavations deeper than five feet.

I apologize that I have not cited the places in the report where these changes can be inserted. Hopefully I can get that done before we meet. Or perhaps Chairman Bradstreet can help me out.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,  
Todd Darling  
Commissioner, DFSC

On Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 3:29 PM May, Keith <[KMay@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:KMay@berkeleyca.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon Commissioners,

I am finalizing the DFSC Agenda and, I believe, that the four of you were on a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Working Group that was going to create an item to bring back tot the Commission. Does anyone have any materials that they want to include in the agenda for Action/Discussion? Please send any items, materials, documentation **before noon on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Thank You!

*Keith May*

Deputy Fire Chief

Berkeley Fire Department

2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Berkeley, CA 94704

510-981-5508 office

510-693-2221 cell

[kmay@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:kmay@berkeleyca.gov)

Internal

**Written material # 1:**

On Jun 26, 2024, at 5:06 PM, Henry DeNero <[htdenero@gmail.com](mailto:htdenero@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear DFSC Partners,

The Berkeley FireSafe Council (BFSC) proposes that the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) recommend a policy in Alameda County similar to that just adopted by Contra Costa County. The county has reversed the AC Alert opt in/opt out provision. Citizens will be placed on the system unless they opt out, rather than the other way around.

This will dramatically increase the number of residents who have AC Alert as a means of warnings and instructions in the event of wildfire, earthquake and other hazards. It is an important public safety measure.

We ask the DFSC to work with City of Berkeley officials to recommend such a change for Alameda County.

Below is a summary of the proposal and links to the recently enacted Contra Costa County measure.

Best regards,

Henry DeNero

President, Berkeley FireSafe Council

## Written material # 2:

### AC Alert - Will Everyone Get a Warning in Time?

AC Alert is the Mass Notification System used by City and County agencies throughout Alameda County to rapidly spread emergency alerts to people who live there, work in or visit the County. AC Alert is capable of sending alerts by voice, text and email.

Signing up for AC Alert is voluntary, but less than half of County residents have done so – which means that at least 50% of the community may not receive any alert in an emergency.

If AC Alert was changed to an opt-out system (Contra Costa County has already done so with their Community Warning System), then there would be no requirement for any County resident or business to create an account in order to receive calls or texts on their mobile phones, calls on their VoIP line, or an email. Those individuals who would prefer not to have their contact data registered in AC Alert would have to request that their data not be included. Residents or businesses that opt out could still receive alerts by other mechanisms such as the WEA, radio, TV, social media and non-VoIP landlines if those tools are activated.

The costs involved in changing AC Alert to an opt-out system would include the annual cost to obtain the contact data of its residents and businesses from the various telecom companies servicing the County as well as a one-time cost to educate the public about the change to the system and to provide them with information on how and when to opt out. However, the benefits of an opt-out process, in terms of potential loss of life in an emergency, would likely outweigh these costs.

For a summary of the costs and benefits of an opt-in system, please see this article:

#### **Grand Jury Recommends Auto Enrollment into Community Warning System**

<https://contracosta.news/2024/06/25/grand-jury-recommends-auto-enrollment-into-community-warning-system/>

The full report of the Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury is here:

<https://www.cc-courts.org/civil/docs/grandjury/2023-2024/2402/2402-CommunityWarningSystem.pdf>

Written material # 3

**A Report of  
The 2023 – 2024 Contra Costa County  
Civil Grand Jury**

Report 2402  
May 31, 2024

**The Contra Costa County Community  
Warning System**

Will Everyone Get a Warning in Time?

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1. By March 31, 2025, the Board of Supervisors should develop a plan to modify the CWS so that it automatically registers all available contact data for all County residents and businesses into its system and provides a mechanism for residents and businesses to opt out of the automatic registration process.
- R2. By December 31, 2025, the Board of Supervisors should complete the implementation of the plan to modify the CWS so that it automatically registers all available contact data for all County residents and businesses into its system and provides a mechanism for residents and businesses to opt out of the automatic registration process.
- 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.
- R6. By June 30, 2025, the Board of Supervisors should execute a contract with a third-party consulting firm to conduct a comprehensive risk analysis of the CWS, including its processes, procedures, contracts, hardware, and software.

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