

AGENDA
Disaster Fire and Safety Commission
Regular Meeting

April 26, 2023
7:00 PM

Fire Department Training Facility – 997 Cedar Street

District 1 –	District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet	District 6 – Greg Murphy
District 3 –	District 7 – Harrison Raines
District 4 – Antoinette Stein	District 8 – Theo Gordon

Mayor’s Appointee- Jose Luis Bedolla

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Fire Department Staff Report *

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of March 22, 2023*

Action Items

3. Recommend that City Council Adopt the Final Draft of Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) (Bedolla, Raine)*
4. Recommendation to Form a Working Group to Seek Items Presented, With the Goal of Presenting a Proposal in the Future that Outlines a Program to Retrofit All Vulnerable Non-Ductile Buildings in Berkeley (Dean, Murphy)*
5. Request City Council to Require HUD to Upgrade Their Electrical Grid to Include Battery Back-up During the Time that the Facility is Going Through Renovation (Dean)*

Discussion Items

6. Updates on Citywide Disaster Preparedness Efforts Beyond Fire Presentation (Staff)

Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

- a. Recommendation to City Council on Measure GG/FF Tax Rate Adjustment
- b. FY24 Work Plan Submittal

Adjournment

AGENDA
Disaster Fire and Safety Commission
Regular Meeting

March 22, 2023
7:00 PM

Fire Department Training Facility – 997 Cedar Street

Present: Jose Luis Bedolla, Weldon Bradstreet, Greg Murphy, Shirley Dean, Theo Gordon
Harrison Raine

Absent: Antoinette Stein

Staff: Keith May, Leah Greenbaum

Public: 5 attendees, 3 speakers

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

W. Bradstreet called meeting to order at 7:02pm

Introduction of Commissioner Theo Gordon

Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

2 speakers

1. Fire Department Staff Report *

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of February 22, 2023*

Motion to approve the minutes as revised: S. Dean

Second: J. Bedolla

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, T. Gordon, J. Bedolla, S. Dean, G. Murphy,

0 Noes; 2 Absent: H. Raine, A. Stein; 0 Abstain

Action Items

3. Annual Election of Commission Vice Chair

Motion to nominate J. Bedolla for Vice Chair: S. Dean

Second: G. Murphy

Vote: 6 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, T. Gordon, J. Bedolla, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine

0 Noes; 1 Absent: A. Stein; 0 Abstain

4. Approval of Additional Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Meeting to Hear Presentations on Standards of Coverage and Facilities Master Plan (Bradstreet)*

Motion to approve: J. Bedolla

Second: T. Gordon

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, T. Gordon, J. Bedolla, S. Dean, G. Murphy,

0 Noes; 2 Absent: A. Stein, H. Raine; 0 Abstain

5. Request Commissioners To Replace Working Group Commissioners On The Work Plan Who Are No Longer With The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (Murphy)*

Motion: G. Murphy

Second: T. Gordon

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, T. Gordon, J. Bedolla, S. Dean, G. Murphy; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: H.

Raine, A. Stein

Discussion Items

6. Formulate a Working Group To Develop a Summary Document On Safe Passages Initiatives (Bedolla)

7. Building Standards (S. Dean)

Commissioner Raine arrived during discussion of Item #7 at 8:00 pm

8. Fire Department Recruitment Issues (Staff)

1 speaker for public comment

9. Update on Outdoor Warning Siren System – Presentation (Staff)

10. State Department of Housing and Community Development (Dean)*

11. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

- a. Staff presentation on Citywide Disaster Preparedness Efforts Beyond Fire
- b. Building Codes and Seismic Safety to return as an Action Item
- c. State Department of Housing and Community Development to return as an Action Item

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: W. Bradstreet

Second: G. Murphy

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, T. Gordon, J. Bedolla, S. Dean, G. Murphy; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: H. Raine, A. Stein

Adjourned at 9:15pm

21 April 2023

Dear Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember Kesarwani, Councilmember Taplin, Councilmember Bartlett, Councilmember Harrison, Councilmember Hahn, Councilmember Wengraf, Councilmember Robinson, and Councilmember Humbert:

As the 2023 fire season rapidly approaches, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) supports and recommends the approval of the City of Berkeley's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Our City is in critical need of action to support greater wildfire resilience in the face of climate change. This CWPP will provide a guiding framework for local agencies and residents to identify, prioritize, and mitigate risk; and will spur greater capacity to leverage additional state and federal resources for wildfire resiliency.

There is no mistaking the rise of catastrophic wildfire in California in recent years. In 1991, the City of Berkeley experienced its own traumatic firestorm, the Tunnel Fire, that claimed 25 lives and destroyed 3,280 housing units. The wounds from this event are still imprinted on many of the City's long-standing residents and have spurred significant efforts to reduce risk. However, forecasts reveal that future fires in the region will rise in intensity and frequency. Simultaneously, the number of residents living in fire-prone regions is anticipated to rise. Climate-driven wildfires often exceed the capacity for response systems, such as state and local firefighters, to operate, leaving mitigation and prevention as the main vehicles to disaster avoidance. The urgency for action cannot be understated.

We must take meaningful measures to reduce wildfire exposure for current and future residents. The DFSC asks you to take a substantive step towards adaptation and resiliency against climate-induced wildfires.

For this reason, the DFSC supports the passage of this CWPP.

April 26, 2023

To: Chairperson Bradstreet and Members of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

From: Commissioners Dean and Murphy

Subject: Building Standards and Seismic Risk of Older Concrete Buildings

There is no question by anyone that Berkeley is bisected – north to south – by the Hayward Fault Zone. In addition, areas within the city of Berkeley in the hills have been designated as landslide areas and other areas closer to the Bay have been designated as liquefaction areas. These designated areas have been mapped for years and have largely been ignored when it comes to land use planning and homes and businesses have been built within all these places. Lately, we also have begun receiving increased notices to be prepared for “The Big One.” There is a 31.7% chance that an earthquake of magnitude 6.7 or greater will occur before 2036.

Recent newspaper reports about the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria have prompted concern about structures constructed with non-ductile concrete. Most concrete buildings permitted prior to 1977 lack ductile detailing of the reinforced concrete members and are now categorized as non-ductile concrete buildings by many jurisdictions (San Francisco, Los Angeles, and more). “Non-ductile” means “inflexible” or “brittle” and when subjected to seismic loading can incur brittle failures that cause collapse (Nimitz Freeway during Loma Prieta). It has been reported that there are some 1,500 of these buildings in Oakland, and many more in San Francisco. A 2018 inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings indicates there are some 230 potentially non-ductile concrete buildings in the city of Berkeley.

For the past several years, Berkeley has had a successful program to seismically retrofit “Soft Story” buildings. It is said that Soft Story Buildings are very different than non-ductile concrete structures. Soft Story buildings are wood framed multi-story structures that have a parking opening or other ground level use walls. Berkeley also has had for years a successful Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Program (URM). That program included unreinforced brick and tile structures built in the 1980s and 1990s. It is unclear whether some or all of the non-ductile concrete buildings were included in that program as it is said that the URM program was put together using a sidewalk view rather than based on records. Both programs included structures that did not involve steel moment frames. Some, or all of the non-ductile concrete programs might have been included in these two programs, but it is not known for sure, or to what extent.

It is important, therefore, to identify any remaining non-ductile concrete structures now and address how or if, safety for residents can be improved since a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault is only a matter of time. To start, we need to seek the answers to the following items:

- The city of Berkeley’s 2019 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan published a map identifying a 2018 inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings. Some 230 non-ductile concrete buildings were shown on Map 11, page B-58 of that Plan along with many other buildings. This inventory should be shared with the Commission. San Francisco retained the Structural Engineers Association to do “walk by’s” of the buildings in downtown SF

to create a list of buildings that may have been non-ductile concrete, then checked their permit histories to determine the date of permit. This is a model, combined with the 2018 inventory of 230 buildings, that we should look to use in Berkeley to assure the inventory of non-ductile concrete structures is updated by qualified professionals.

- Knowing the extent of the problem, the Commission should then discuss what has been done to abate the problem along with possible solutions and costs to retrofit the buildings on that updated inventory.
- To ensure that professional standards are met, we believe the commission, with input from building officials, structural engineers and architects should draft a prescriptive ordinance that references benchmark codes or compliance levels. There are several codes for retrofitting existing buildings (ASCE 41, International Existing Building Code, etc.)
- The Commission can then look at other issues related to establishing a policy of retrofitting non-ductile concrete buildings such as:
 - What would be the time frame for compliance and source of funding?
 - What would happen to the existing residents in the affected buildings during retrofit?
 - What would protect the return of existing residents in the retrofitted buildings in terms of their housing costs and type of occupancy?
 - How and when are residents/tenants of buildings on the list notified?

This could be an enormous problem that would shape future land use decisions. But we can't just ignore that it exists because of the serious consequences. It needs to be a part of the consideration and vision we have for the future of our city.

April 26, 2023

To: Chairperson Bradstreet and Members of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

From: Commissioner Dean

Subject: Request that the City Council Require that HUD-Owned Harriet Tubman Terrace Apartments Install Solar Battery Back-up Battery Capability to Meet Medical Needs of Their Residents During Loss of Electrical Power, and Consider Same Action for Other HUD Properties in Berkeley

It has been brought to my attention that during recent electrical power shutdowns residents in the Harriet Tubman Terrace Apartments were without electrical power for around 10 hours. Since this is a facility for the elderly and disabled this is a problem for those that need electricity for refrigeration of prescriptions and operation of some medical equipment. This facility is owned and operated by HUD. Since the building is currently undergoing a planned renovation it seems reasonable that such a requirement for the installation of a battery backup to meet the medical requirements of their residents be considered at this particular time. While there are other HUD owned properties in Berkeley, it is also a reasonable requirement that the Council consider such a requirement for them as well, however, that should be left for the Council to consider when that should be done. I, therefore, move that the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission take the following action:

Request that the City Council Require that HUD-Owned Harriet Tubman Terrace Apartments Install Solar Battery Back-up Battery Capability to Meet Medical Needs of Their Residents During Loss of Electrical Power, and Consider Same Action for Other HUD Properties in Berkeley

Background:

The Harriet Tubman Terrace Apartments, located at 2870 Adeline Street, is a 90-unit affordable housing community that was built in 1990. It is owned by HUD which selects a management system to operate it. It provides housing for adults 62 years or older and for adults with disabilities and as I understand, the facility is historically and currently at full occupancy.

The building is now undergoing a planned renovation. That renovation has proven to be controversial. I am not proposing that the Commission engage in the issues around renovation since that would not be within our purview. However, the renovation does provide an opportunity to address one issue that is within our purview, i.e. the health and safety of residents when electric power shut-offs occur. As we all know and expect, is that the loss of electrical power is likely to happen again in the future for periods of time that are not predictable. I believe that the issue of ensuring access to medical care during these times is within the purview of the Commission to address. However, it should be clear that this one issue is the only focus of this request for action being made by the Commission.

There is a reasonable solution in requiring the installation of a battery driven back up system which will generate enough electricity to maintain a central location within the facility to meet the essential medical needs of the residents. Such a back-up should be powered by a solar panel rather than by a natural gas generator. Gas powered generators are noisy and result in complaints from neighbor properties and residents themselves. Solar powered back-ups are quiet. Environmentally friendly and cost less to operate.

The existence of such a back-up not only would benefit the physical health of individual residents it would lessen the anxiety and panic over the loss of medical care for extended periods of

time. Furthermore, as a sign of caring for the needs of everyone, it would contribute to an overall positive sense of being cared for by everyone living in the facility.

DFSC Staff Report

April 26, 2023

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

- **Standards of Coverage Analysis** – The Department is undergoing an in-depth analysis of fixed and mobile resources to determine the best deployment model and to ensure the Department is responding effectively and efficiently. (*Measure FF has funded the study only*)

- Status: No New Update

- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** – The CWPP is a comprehensive risk analysis that addresses local target hazards and includes a community-based action plan to mitigate threats, promote preparedness activities, and ensure resiliency. It will serve as the foundation and roadmap for the Departments work to prevent wildfire and limit the spread when they ignite.

- Update: See Agenda Action Item 3

<https://cwpp-berkeley.hub.arcgis.com/>

- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** –

- No New Updates

- **Retired Annuitants** – The retired annuitants are largely focused on performing vegetation inspections for properties in fire zone 2 and 3. They are also looking at transitioning the inspection from paper to mobile technology, re-tooling the re-inspection, citation, and violation process. The Department has also expanded its traditional hazardous fire area program to include all properties in fire zones 2 and 3.

- Update: No New Updates.

- **Dispatch Study:** Our goal, per Council direction is to enhance the dispatch center so it can triage calls, divert non-emergency calls (including mental health calls) to appropriate resources like the SCU; and provide emergency medical instructions to callers.
 - Status: No New Updates.
- **Safe Passage**
 - **Update:** All of the repainting of red curbs and the replacement of signs in Fire Zone 3 has been completed. We are now evaluating the process before moving forward with Fire Zone 2.
- **Division of Training Property** – The Department is actively engaged to find a piece of property that will meet the City’s needs for the training and development of its emergency responders and support staff. Due to zoning, the cost of property and the proximity of residential units to most property in Berkeley, this location will likely be outside the City proper. This presents exciting opportunities for regional collaboration with other fire departments and a community college district.
 - Update: No New Updates.

ii. Implementation & Metrics

- **Outdoor Warning System** – The last two locations (Fire Station 7 and the Animal Care Center) are being installed the week of April 24th.

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: The Fire Department will be presenting the outcomes of the Fire Facilities Master Plan process to the City Council on May 16th.

4. Department Activities

- a. On March 31st, Fire Academy 112 graduated and are in the orientation phase of employment.

- b. We have seen an uptick in Lithium Battery Fires. On April 18th we had two separate fires that were caused by lithium batteries. We are in the process of developing a Communications Plan. We will push out messages to the community on multiple sources.
5. Emergency Preparedness
- a. CERT – The Berkeley Fire Department is excited to announce that free, in-person Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is now open for enrollment for community members who live or work in Berkeley. An initial offering of courses begins in May and additional courses will be announced as they become available.

To learn more check [the CERT Program webpage](#). Initial courses include:

[Saturday May 6, 9-11am, CERT Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness](#)

[Tuesday, May 16, 7-9pm, CERT Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness](#)

[Thursday, June 8, 6-9pm CERT Unit 2: CERT Organization](#)

[Saturday, June 10, 9-12pm CERT Unit 2: CERT Organization](#)

[Thursday June 22, 6-9pm CERT: Disaster Mental Health](#)

- b. We also welcome back the community to monthly Berkeley Ready emergency preparedness meet-ups on the second Wednesday of each month. Each month will feature a guest speaker or disaster preparedness discussion topic. CERT members, neighborhood group participants, and anyone with an interest in getting more prepared for emergencies is welcome.

Our first community meet-up is scheduled for May 10 from 7pm to 8:30pm and will focus on a discussion about the re-launch of in-person programming and our communal experiences of COVID emergency response. These meet-ups will be hosted at 997 Cedar St.

6. Grants

- a. **SAFER Grant Planning:** We will be submitting for a SAFER grant to begin to address the staffing recommendations that are outlined in the Standards of Coverage report. A team has been working on the application for several months now and we are close to having a final draft.
 - i. No New Updates.
- b. **AFG Grant Submission:** We did apply for ~800k that would fund two additional full-time on-site Human Performance Specialists for two years who would focus on nutrition and behavioral health.
 - i. No New Updates.
- c. **Cal Fire, Berkeley, and El Cerrito Grant:** The City is applying for a \$5 million grant to perform education, outreach and direct aid to Fire Zone 2, 3 and to perform work in Cerritos Canyon on both the Berkeley and El Cerrito/Kensington sides.
 - i. No New Updates.
- d. **CalFIRE Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) Grant:** Berkeley Fire is submitting for about \$1.2 million multi-agency mitigation grant that will provide funding for hazardous vegetation

management along key roadways in Fire Zone 2, mostly along all of Grizzly Peak. A lot of work is going into this and the benefits will be a huge win for the City.

- i. No New Updates.

7. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
February 2023		
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	43	
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	37	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	0	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	930	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	146	
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)	142	
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	119	

Public

False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	186	
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	80	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	2	
TOTAL	1,643	

Apparatus Count

Unit Utilization	3,778	
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Date of DFSC Action	Description	Status
3/22/23	Approval of Additional Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Meeting	Submitted to City Clerk and scheduled for 5/9/23 - Open



City of Berkeley
Office of Emergency Services

Updates on Citywide Disaster Preparedness Efforts

Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

April 26, 2023

Sarah Lana, Emergency Services Manager



City of Berkeley

Office of Emergency Services

Our team



Sarah Lana

Emergency
Services
Manager



**Leah
Greenbaum**

Emergency
Services
Coordinator



**Jamie
Albrecht**

Emergency
Services
Coordinator



Khin Chin

Emergency
Services
Coordinator



City of Berkeley
Office of Emergency Services

Our role

- Prepare the City organization
- Response
- Recovery
- Hazard analysis
- Community resilience



City of Berkeley
Office of Emergency Services

Prepare the City organization





Prepare the City organization

- **Emergency Operations Center**
 - Maintain ~175-person EOC team (includes city staff representing all departments)
 - Conduct staff training and exercise for EOC roles
 - Maintain EOC systems, equipment and space





Prepare the City organization

- **Mass Care & Shelter**
 - Coordinate with stakeholders
 - Train staff
 - Maintain information about available sites for mass care activities
 - Maintain supportive supplies and equipment to conduct mass care operations





Prepare the City organization

- **Alert and Warning**

- Maintain alerting systems
- Train staff on alerting systems
- Maintain operational protocols and plans for alert and warning
- Educate community members on alert and warning protocols, get community signed up for systems





Prepare the City organization



- **Response Planning**

- Conduct planning processes for the Emergency Operations Plan and related procedures
- Exercise and improve plans and procedures
- Advise Departments and response partners on emergency management.



Prepare the City organization

- **Additional Staff Training**

- Train staff in Disaster Service Worker roles/responsibilities
- Offer personal preparedness training to increase staff readiness to fulfill emergency duties





City of Berkeley
Office of Emergency Services

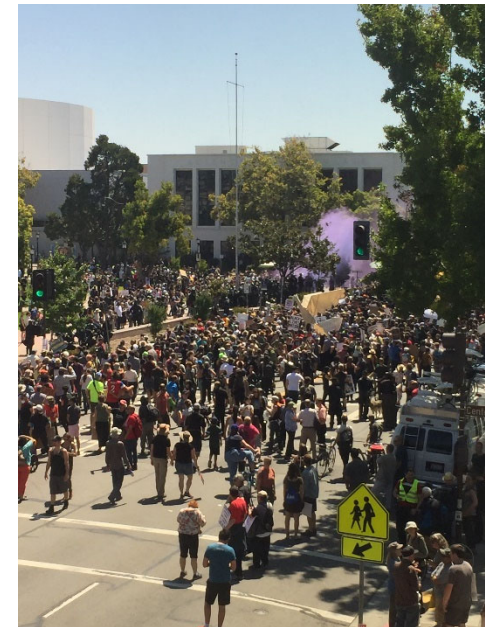
Response





Emergency Response

- Monitor and support escalating incidents
- Coordinate activations of the City's Emergency Operations Center
- Operate City alert and warning systems to provide timely life safety alerts to the public





Response: EOC Activation Overview

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Storms x2	COVID	COVID	COVID	COVID	Fire weather	Hepatitis A	Homeless
	Tsunami	Caldor Fire	Election	Malcom X MCI	Civil Unrest	Grizzly Fire	MH Clinic Closure
	People's Park	Storms	PSPS	PSPS x2	McGee Trees	Civil Unrest x6	
	Matt Walsh	Chauvin			Smoke		

Federally declared disasters

List does not include situation monitoring work



City of Berkeley
Office of Emergency Services

Recovery





Recovery

1. During emergencies, coordinate reporting to justify disaster assistance
2. After emergencies, coordinate City government applications for FEMA assistance (when available)





City of Berkeley
Office of Emergency Services

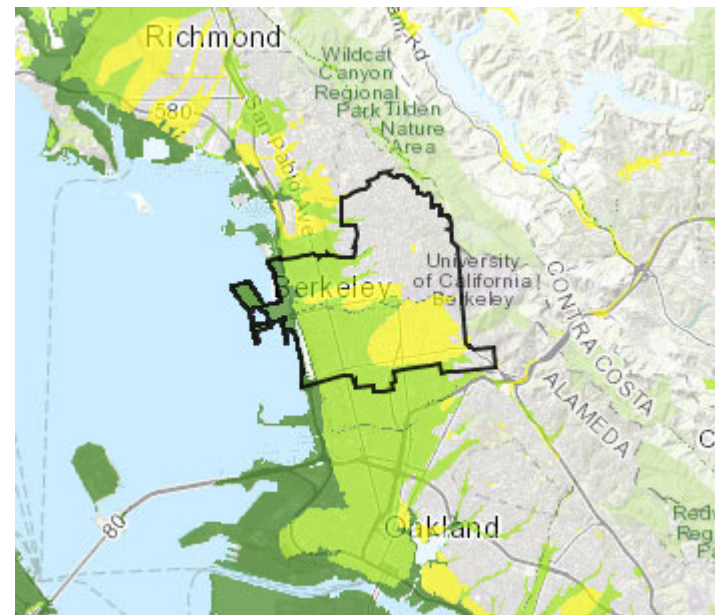
Hazard Analysis





Hazard Analysis

- **Maintain and Continuously update organizational understanding of Berkeley's hazards, exposure, and vulnerabilities.**
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Evacuation Time Study





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Community Resilience



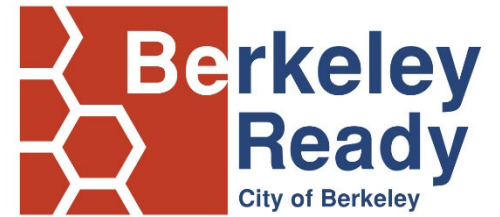
Community Resilience

- **Design, implement, and continually improve programs to increase Berkeley community members' ability to withstand emergencies and disasters.**
- **Established Programs**
 - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training
 - Disaster Cache



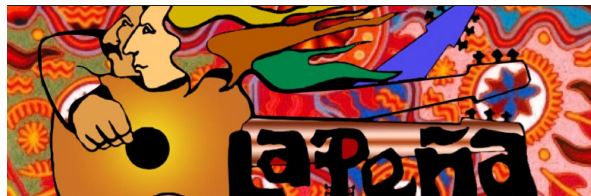
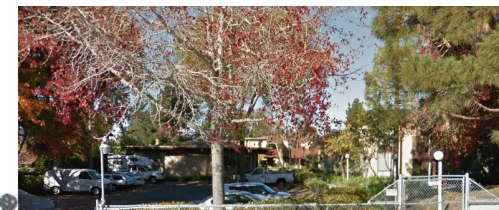
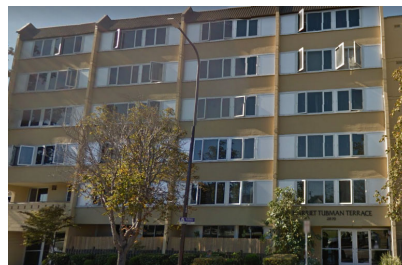


City of Berkeley
Office of Emergency Services



Community Resilience

- Pilot Programs (in partnership with Public Health)
 - Community Resilience Centers
 - Apartment Resilience Centers





Community Resilience

- Ongoing efforts
 - Community Based Organization coordination
 - Community education
 - Assessing effectiveness of resilience programs





City of Berkeley
Office of Emergency Services



Thank you!

Questions?

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