

DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**September 27, 2023
7:00 PM**

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Vacant

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

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report*

Consent Items

3. Minutes of August 2, 2023*
From: Commission Secretary
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the August 2, 2023 Regular Meeting.
4. Minutes of September 6, 2023*
From: Commission Secretary
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the September 6, 2023 Special Meeting.

Action Items

5. Request that the Commission forward the Janice Thomas' August 27, 2023 letter "RE: State Fire Marshal's Recommendation For Panoramic Hill" to City Council, UC Berkeley President, and the UC President and Board * (Dean)

Discussion Items

6. Staff presentation on 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update process* (Staff)
7. Discussion on impact of increased density due to new developments along Shattuck/Adeline (Darling)
8. Discussion on biolabs and other large facilities, hazardous materials contained therein, and potential emergency response impacts and challenges (Dean)
9. Discussion to write a Commendation to Chief Sprague for the Master Facilities Plan (Dean)
10. Update on the City's progress of evaluating and regulating non-ductile concrete structures* (Murphy)

Work Group Reports

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

Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

1. Discussion regarding concerns about the recent State Housing and Community Development ruling which would increase density in Fire Zones 2 and 3 (Dean)

Adjournment

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SECRETARY SIGNATURE

DFSC Staff Report

September 27, 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: Approved by City Council on May 16, 2023 ([Item 1](#))
Waiting for signatures from Cal Fire.

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

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

- **Updates:** The success of the Chipper Program continues and the service has been extended to December.

- **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:** The interns staffed an outreach booth at the 1923 Fire Ready Fest and were engaged and busy the entire 4 hours.

- **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:** City is working with KLD on analysis to meet requirements of SB99, AB747, and AB1409. Initial analysis will be reports identifying Access Impaired Neighborhoods and analyzing evacuation routes' safety, capacity, and viability. These reports will be incorporated in first draft 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, with estimated public release in November 2023.

- **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** – On September 17, 2023, the Office of Emergency Services conducted the first public test of the City's new OWS network of emergency sirens.
- In September 2021, City Council approved a \$1.97 million contract with Genasys Inc to build and install the 15-siren OWS, funded by Measure FF. By early September 2023, installation was complete at 10 out of 15 siren sites. On September 17, an additional temporary siren was tested at an 11th location at Live Oak Park as part of a ribbon-cutting ceremony and demonstration at the Department's 1923 Fire Commemoration event Fire Ready Fest.
- The community was asked to participate in the test through a "Did You Hear It?" Siren Test Day Survey. OES received over 1,700 responses from people who identified their location during the test and whether they heard the siren tone and voice message. Staff are continuing to analyze survey data and will provide a report for the October DFSC meeting.

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: Approved by City Council on May 16, 2023 ([Item 2](#)) . No new update
4. Department Activities
 - a. On August 30th, Our crews responded for a female in active labor. The family was attempting to make to Kaiser Oak from Richmond but was hindered by traffic for over 45 mins on I-80. When our crews arrived, mom was in active labor, and delivered a healthy baby in less than 20 mins from initial call. Great call.
 - b. On September 17th the Fire Department hosted the Fire Ready Fest commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 1923 Berkeley Fire. It was a good turn out from the community and there was a lot of engagement with the various vendors. It was great to see the children enjoying games and participating in interactive fire prevention fun and fire safety demonstrations.
5. 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 applied 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. This grant was denied this go around.
 - d. **CalFIRE Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) Grant:** Berkeley Fire is submitting for about \$2.8 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. In collaboration with the Hillside Emergency Forum, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and University of California Berkeley, City of Berkeley was awarded \$2.8M for the Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel Break Collaboration. We are working on getting the grant agreement in place before October, which means that work could start in early 2024.

6. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
	July 2023	August 2023
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	42	46
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	39	40
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	0	0
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	874	904
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	44	63
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)	102	125
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	118	121

Public

False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	193	218
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	0	0
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	1	7
TOTAL	1,374	1,484
	Apparatus Count	Apparatus Count
Unit Utilization	3,143	3,242

DFSC Action Tracker

Date of DFSC Action	Description	Status
5/24/2023	Adopt a Recommendation to City Council on the Measure FF and Measure GG Tax Rate Adjustment	Recommendation approved by Council. First reading of Ordinance No. 7,877–N.S. was adopted on 6/27/2023; Second reading of Ordinance No. 7,877-N.S was adopted on 7/11/2023, setting the FY 2024 tax rate for funding Fire Protection and Emergency Response and Preparedness in the City of Berkeley at the rate of \$0.06062 (6.062 cents) per square foot of improvements for dwelling units and setting the rate for all other property at \$0.09173 (9.173 cents) per square foot of improvements: Closed



DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**August 2, 2023
7:00 PM**

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Present: Weldon Bradstreet, Shirley Dean, Theodore Gordon, Greg Murphy, Todd Darling, Harrison Raine
Absent: Toni Stein
Staff: Keith May, Leah Greenbaum,
Public: 6 attendees

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Meeting started at 7:02

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to move Item 8 to the action calendar and approve agenda: W. Bradstreet

Second: S. Dean

Vote: 4 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, T. Gordon

0 Noes; 3 Absent; 0 Abstain

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Darling arrived at 7:08

1. Chairperson's Report: None.
2. Fire Department Staff Report*

Raine arrived at 7:18

Consent Items

3. Minutes of July 13, 2023*
From: Commission Secretary
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the July 13, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes: S. Dean

Second: T. Gordon

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine, T. Gordon, T. Darling

0 Noes; 1 Absent: 0 Abstain

Action Items

4. Election of a Vice-Chair position (Bradstreet)

Motion to nominate Murphy as Vice Chair: Dean

Second: W. Bradstreet

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine, T. Gordon, T. Darling

0 Noes; 1 Absent: 0 Abstain

G. Murphy elected as Vice Chair.

5. Approve the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission's FY2023 Workplan* (Bradstreet)

Motion to approve workplan as amended: Bradstreet

Second: Murphy

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine, T. Gordon, T. Darling

0 Noes; 1 Absent: 0 Abstain

Workplan approved with amendments: add Darling to WUI and Safe Passages workgroup.

6. Action item regarding hybrid meetings (Dean)

Commissioners held a brief discussion but did not take action on this item.

Discussion Items

7. Discussion item regarding the California Office of the State Fire Marshal's review of the Panoramic Hill neighborhood*

8. Discussion item regarding State laws pertaining to development fees* (Dean)

Item was moved from Discussion calendar to Action calendar during "Approval of the Agenda". After discussion, Dean pulled item from Action calendar as Commission did not take action on this item.

9. Request review of low-cost outdoor particulate smoke detectors that are tailored for high priority areas (Stein)

Item held to next meeting

Work Group Reports

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

No workgroup report outs—workgroups beginning to schedule meetings with staff.

10. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

- Discussion on impact of increased density due to new developments along Shattuck/Adeline (Darling)
- Discussion on biolabs and other large facilities, hazardous materials contained therein, and potential emergency response impacts and challenges (Dean)

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

Motion to adjourn: Bradstreet

Second: Murphy

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, S. Dean, G. Murphy, H. Raine, T. Gordon, T. Darling
0 Noes; 1 Absent: 0 Abstain

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SECRETARY SIGNATURE



**DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
7:00 PM**

997 Cedar Street – Fire Department Division of Training Classroom

Mayor's Appointee- Vacant

District 1 – Vacant
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet
District 3 – Todd Darling
District 4 – Antoinette Stein

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

AGENDA

Roll Call

7:09 start

Present: Bradstreet, Murphy, Dean, Gordon, Darling

Absent: Stein, Raine

Staff: Chief Sprague, Chief May

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to Approve: Dean

Second: Murphy

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

4 community members present

1. Dispatch Needs Assessment – Staff Update

Chief Sprague has pulled the item from Council due to this being a high-level report that involves so many departments. Fire is looking for a second opinion due to some discrepancies.

2. Facilities Master Plan* – Staff Presentation

Adjournment

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SECRETARY SIGNATURE

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update Process

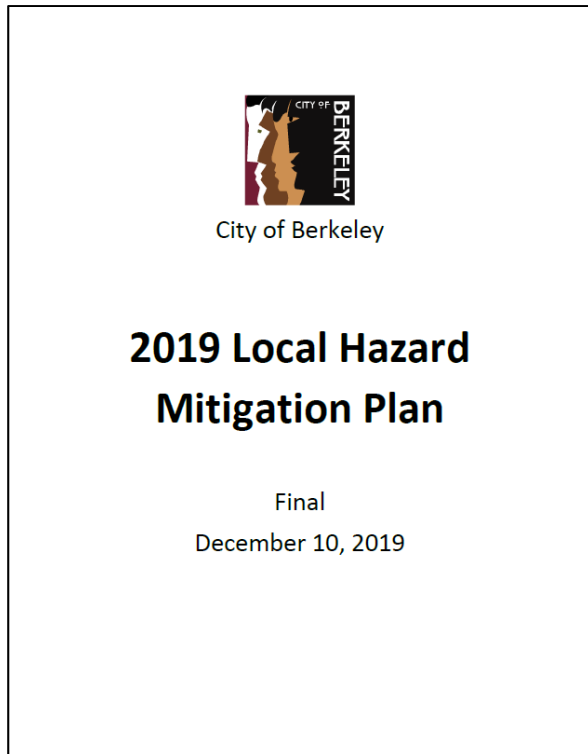
Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

September 27, 2023

Agenda

- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Elements
- 2024 Updates
- DFSC Role in 2024 Plan Update Process
- Community Outreach Plan
- Plan Review and Approvals Process

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan



- Appendix to City's General Plan
- Adopted 2004, 2014, 2019
- Required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency every 5 years to **remain eligible for post-disaster recovery money and hazard mitigation funds**
- Collects and presents:
 - City's funded activities
 - Proposed activities that require additional funding

Mitigation + Preparedness = Readiness

- Mitigation: Reduce or eliminate disaster impacts
- Preparedness: Increase emergency response capability



Mitigation + Preparedness = Readiness

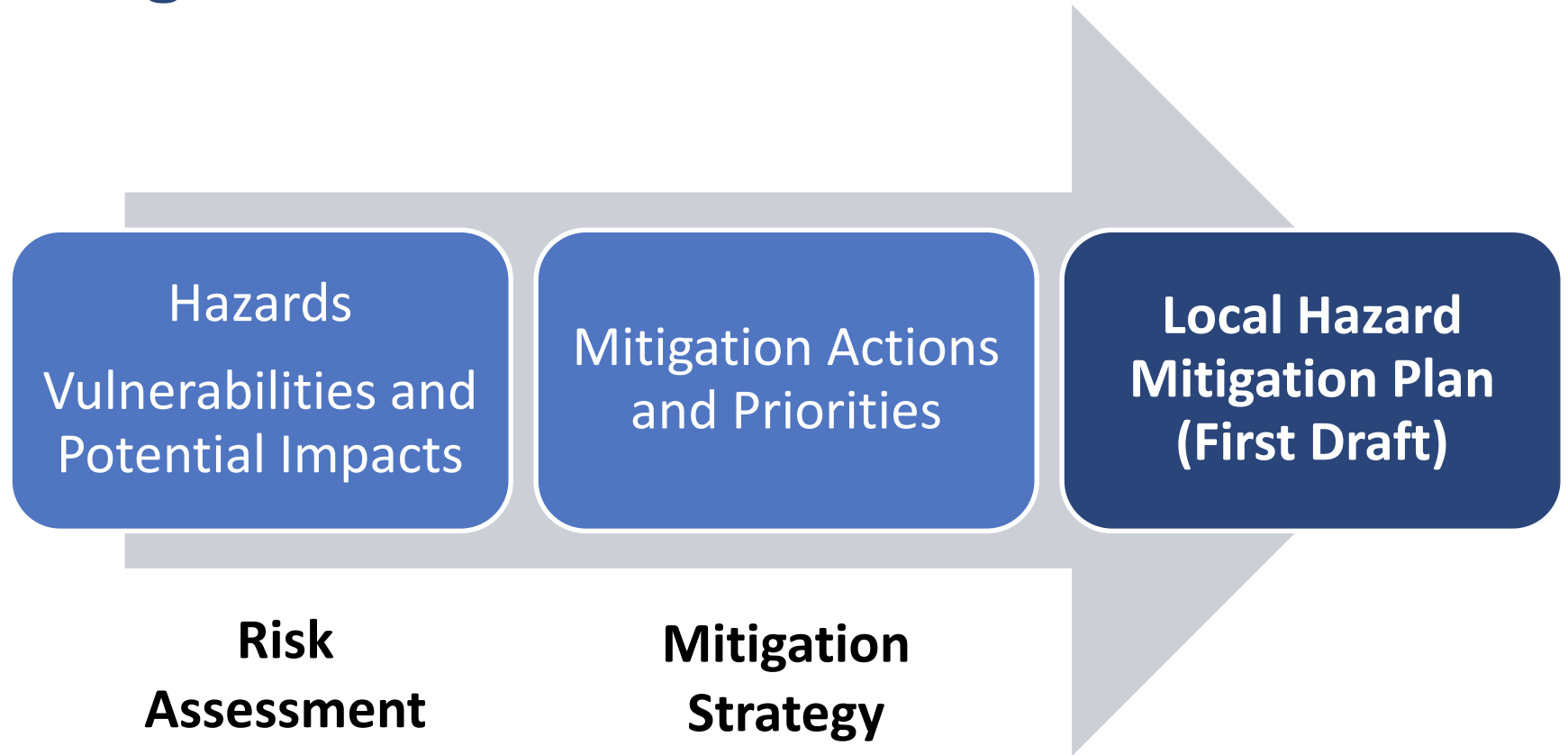
Mitigation:

- Strengthening structures
- Making land use decisions that will minimize damage
- Vegetation management and home hardening in fire-risk areas
- Strapping down water heaters

Preparedness:

- Purchasing equipment to use in emergency response
- Conducting disaster response drills
- Storing disaster supplies

Mitigation Plan Elements



2024 Risk Assessment: Key Updates

- Updated hazard science
- New mapping and analysis
- Integrated climate change and environmental justice concerns throughout
- 5 new hazards of concern



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Pathways
Climate Institute, San Francisco Estuary Institute



Risk Assessment: Hazards of concern

2019	2024
Earthquake	Earthquake
Wildland-Urban Interface Fire	Wildland-Urban Interface Fire
Landslide	Landslide
Flood	Flood
Tsunami	Tsunami
Climate change	Climate change *
Extreme heat	Extreme heat
Hazardous materials release	Hazardous materials release
	Sea level rise and Shallow Groundwater Rise
	Poor Air Quality
	Wind
	Utility Disruption
	Infectious Disease

*2024: climate change will be integrated into every hazard and in the plan’s overarching framing

2024 Mitigation Strategy: Key Updates

- Progress on 2019 actions
- New actions
- Re-prioritize actions



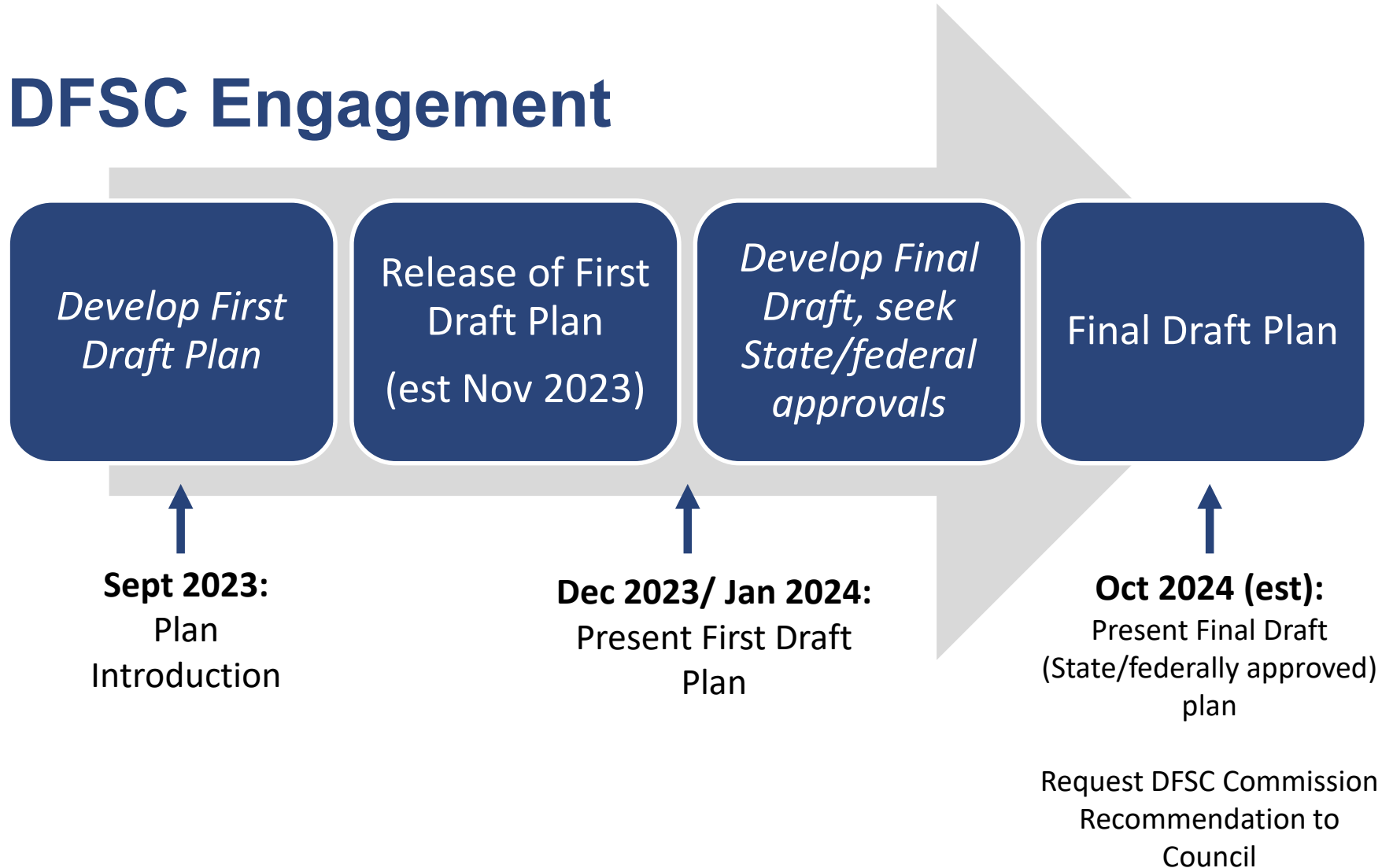
New in 2024: Evacuation Analysis

- Included to meet new State requirements
 - SB 99: Residential developments with 1 way out
 - AB 747: Evacuation routes, capacities, safety, viability
 - AB 1409: Evacuation locations
- Will include **preliminary analysis** from Evacuation Time Study

DFSC Roles & Responsibilities

- “Advise the City Council on all matters affecting fire safety and/or disaster resilience within Berkeley”
- Timeline: Winter 2023 through Fall 2024
- Host 2 public meetings (along with Planning Commission)
 - **Meeting 1:** First Draft LHMP (Dec 2023 or Jan 2024)
 - Action (optional): Commission feedback on Mitigation Strategy
 - **Meeting 2:** Final Draft (est. Oct 2024)
 - Action: Recommend Final Draft Plan adoption by Council

DFSC Engagement



Community Outreach Plan

- Post Plan to website; physical copies at City Hall
- Staff presentations at DFSC and Planning Commission
- Accessible, hazard-specific education
 - Community meetings
 - Online videos
- Receive feedback
 - In-person meetings
 - Online (feedback collection tool; Mitigation@BerkeleyCA.gov)
 - Postal mail/comment drop-off at Public Safety Building

LHMP Review and Approvals Process



To: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
From: Commissioner Greg Murphy
Re: Non-ductile Concrete Structures

I met with Jenny McNulty (manager) and Galadriel Burr of the City's Resilient Buildings Program and wanted to share a summary of what the city is doing regarding addressing non-ductile concrete structures.

1. As you know, a 2018 inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings referenced in the plan identifies 230 potentially non-ductile buildings in the City of Berkeley, as noted in a recent communication to the commission from staff. According to Ms. McNulty, the majority of those buildings are commercial properties. Since there was no engineering evaluation done of those buildings, and needing to avoid liability and misinformation, the exact locations of the buildings considered in that inventory were not made public. The inventory merely gave city officials some sense of how large of an issue this might be in Berkeley.
2. Ms. McNulty shared that she was involved in developing Berkeley's soft story retrofit program and in doing so experienced the amount of time and resources it took to put this program in place. Several other jurisdictions in fact, took Berkeley's program and modified it to implement in their own locality, such as San Francisco.
3. San Francisco has created a work group to develop a Concrete Building Safety Program as part of the committee that is under the auspices of the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning, and they are far along in the process of developing a set of recommendations that would lead to a development of a program regarding non-ductile concrete structures. I have attached a link to a slide deck of their work as of September 14, 2023.
4. The draft program that is being developed in SF considers what types and age of buildings be included, what level of retrofit be required, and considers several of the issues Commissioner Dean and I raised in the draft letter we discussed in our DFSC meeting on April 26.
5. If the Berkeley City Council wants to implement mandatory retrofit requirements for concrete buildings, Ms. McNulty would like to take the draft program that San Francisco is developing and then modify it to present to the City of Berkeley. This would essentially be the reverse of what the city did regarding the residential soft story retrofit program and save the COB time and money in developing their own program. According to the timeline of the SF Concrete Building Safety Program Work Group, they hope to present a draft program and set of recommendations to an Executive Panel of the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning next month.
6. I'll be staying in contact with Ms. McNulty and her staff regarding San Francisco's progress on this program, and how Berkeley intends to use the SF program.

JANICE THOMAS

**a resident of the
PANORAMIC HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
BERKELEY, CA
94704**

August 27, 2023

Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
City of Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Re: State Fire Marshal's recommendations for Panoramic Hill

Dear Commissioners,

Some facts, and some opinions about the implications of those facts, are given to you here for the City's record:

The State Fire Marshal is required to make recommendations re: fire safety but the communities are not required or mandated by law to implement the recommendations. This is a sensible given that there are conditions on the ground which may not have been adequately considered by the State Fire Marshal.

The lower part of Panoramic Hill is in a historic district that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The implications of this are several:

The roadway:

- (1) Lower Panoramic Way was built in the 1880s and the roadway condition are thus narrow and inadequate.
- (2) In this part of the neighborhood, the houses were built at the turn of the century. Some of these houses have no street frontage, others have shallow street setbacks and shallow side setbacks. These houses are unable to create street parking even if the property owners tried.
- (3) Some houses cannot build off-street parking because the houses are located on a steep hillside. Carving into the hillside would heighten the risk of landslides, especially, since Panoramic Way is located on the Hayward Fault.
- (4) When possible, many individuals have already built off-street parking. Because of the off-street parking, many parking spots have already been removed from lower Panoramic.
- (5) Because of the narrowness of the street, parking is already limited to only one side of the street.
- (6) To increase fire safety over the years and to improve traffic flow, many potential parking spaces have already been eliminated.

- (7) Parts of Panoramic Way do not have sidewalks. For example, from the 1st hairpin to the 2nd hairpin there are no sidewalks. In the absence of sidewalks, the few parking spaces and the cars in them provide protection for pedestrians who are walking on the roadway.

The law:

- (1) Removing parking on Panoramic Way would trigger environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act, especially the land use impacts as the viability of some parts of the residential neighborhood would be affected.
- (2) Because Panoramic Hill is a residential historic district, cultural resources might also be affected.

The politics:

I have personally been told, as have many people, that in a major fire, the fire department would not come to Panoramic Hill. I have even heard a COB Fire Chief say as much at a public meeting. This is probably what the City discusses internally and thinks we don't know.

Even if all the parking were removed, the fire trucks would still have difficulty getting up the hill because of the three hairpin turns, two of which are exceedingly tight. The fire trucks would also have difficulty getting up the hill because cars would be evacuating. **Collisions** are predictable causing further slowdowns. The likelihood of effectively managing the outgoing and incoming traffic on that narrow road during a crisis, with panicking civilians, is low.

Ask the fire fighters. Would they want to come up to the hill even if parking were further reduced or even wholly removed?

The reality:

The State Fire Marshal recommends two things that are controversial: One is removal of parking on Panoramic Hill; the other is building a secondary access road.

Of these, building a secondary access road is the only option which would make a material difference in terms of life safety.

The cities of Berkeley and Oakland have known about these conditions for many years, they have known we are in danger, but have not done anything to materially increase our safety and instead have put nothing more than window dressing on the problem.

City of Berkeley has incrementally imposed increasingly restrictive and cost prohibitive conditions on Berkeley Panoramic Hill property owners. These include, but are not limited to, a merger ordinance, excessive restrictions on new building, a costly interior house-wide sprinkler ordinance on historic structure.

These mitigations are paltry and can no longer be tolerated. We now know what's been going on.

The State Fire Marshal recommends: "Create a secondary access to the subdivision." This item is checked on page 4 of 4 of the report.

Records from the Panoramic Hill Association will show communications to and from the City of Berkeley from at least the 1970's and will show the City's complicity in any disaster, complicity which would not be adequately mitigated by even wholesale removal of street parking.

Meanwhile, the citizens of the City of Berkeley voted to tax themselves (Measures FF and T1) and gave the City Council the power to use this money. And the city has been spending. I see there are some Fire Dept. facilities which will be improved for example. But I have heard nothing about a secondary access road, despite the aforementioned fire safety and infrastructure bonds. This is a story for an investigative journalist, frankly.

The culprits in this story are not the residents despite the apparent efforts to make us so. We need to lug groceries home, take our children to school, get to work, have visitors, have caretakers come, have construction work done, etc. What kind of residential neighborhood does not provide proximate parking to support essential activities of daily life? To not "create a secondary access to the subdivision" while limiting parking during red flag warnings or conditions of high fire danger is to effectively eliminate parking for half of the year and to thereby effectively force us out of the neighborhood. Is this the plan? Is this the city's implicit housing element?

The decision-makers of this body might also need to be reminded that the Panoramic Hill neighborhood is in Oakland and not only Berkeley. There are also potential grant opportunities which have been overlooked. There is also LAFCO which needs to be involved.

The State Fire Marshal's Report:

Meanwhile, the State Fire Marshal's report needs some fact checking. The area map is a large area, yet the address One Orchard Lane is one house. There are several subdivisions in Panoramic Hill, and the oldest of these comprise the Panoramic Hill Historic District, i.e., the subdivisions named University Terrace and University Hill.

The State Fire Marshal's report also recommends unlocking a gate where an additional route may exist. The gate is to the house and cottage at 1001 Panoramic Way, which is a parcel of at least 25,000 sq. ft. There is a fire trail from 1001 to Claremont but there is no roadway.

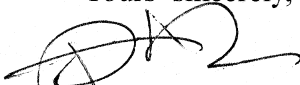
There is also a UC fire trail, Lower Jordan Fire Trail, that starts in Strawberry Canyon and goes up to the Connector at Panoramic Way, which is the Berkeley-Oakland border. However, this fire trail would be used by the UC fire department and is not for civilian use.

The implications:

Face these facts, and please move forward as quickly as possible with finding funding for design and implementation of a secondary access road. It is the only intervention in the State

Fire Marshal's recommendations which would make a meaningful difference in terms of fire safety and saved lives to say nothing of saving billions of dollars of real estate and the subsequent rate increase for home insurance for Californians everywhere.

Yours sincerely,



Janice Thomas

Greenbaum, Leah

From: Carol Hirth <chirth@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 4:25 PM
To: May, Keith
Subject: Letter Opposing Ohlone "Greenway" Expansion Plan

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.

To The City of Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and Shirley Dean

PLEASE OPPOSE THE PROPOSED OHLONE GREENWAY BICYCLE PATH EXPANSION PLAN

Please address this issue at the next Commission meeting by placing it on the agenda

I oppose the wide, fast moving bicycle & electric scooter lanes the City wants to build in the Ohlone corridor.

The city of Berkeley wants to create wide, fast moving bicycle & electric scooter lanes along the Ohlone Right of Way from Virginia Street to the Albany line. The Plan would remove mature trees & shrink Cedar Rose Park; **but would not provide any separate pedestrian pathways, including at the Gilman, Hopkins, Rose & Cedar intersections.**

Bicyclists & e-scooter riders do not & will not safely share the Ohlone Pathway with pedestrians.

Bicycle-pedestrian collisions & near collisions occur daily. Pedestrians, including people with disabilities & parents pushing strollers need their own safe pathway, as exists along the nearby West Street Path, and under the BART tracks in Albany.

An ADA compliant pathway should be of an easy to walk or roll on compacted material, not rocks or gravel.

THIS ILL-CONCEIVED PLAN MAKES THINGS WORSE!

Bicycle and e-scooter riders in Berkeley go too fast already. Wider pathways will encourage bicyclists & e-scooter riders to go even faster, putting pedestrians – including people with disabilities – at even greater risk of being banged into, knocked over, & seriously or fatally injured.

The willful lack of an ADA compliant path invites bicycle-pedestrian accidents & exposes the City to lawsuits.

The developmentally disabled students who participate in the after school programs at the Ala-Costa Center in Cedar Rose Park will be especially vulnerable to being hit by bicycles & e-scooters.

Consultants were paid \$100,000 or more for this Plan, yet did not even consider including a separate pedestrian pathway. Why not?

A city staffer recently said that people can just walk across the grass at Cedar Rose Park. This is ridiculous. The grassy field is very uneven and can be covered with dog waste. The field is often filled with aggressive unleashed dogs. And the field is fenced off for several months every year during the rainy season.

Tell the consultants that their work is not done, and to amend the Plan to include a separate pedestrian pathway at the west side of the Park.

WHY ARE RECKLESS BICYCLISTS AND E-SCOOTER RIDERS TOLERATED?

Bicyclists and e-scooter riders are getting more and more reckless. They routinely run stop signs and stop lights, pass pedestrians on the right, and overtly knock into pedestrians. It's time to strictly enforce all traffic laws against bicyclists and e-scooter riders.

Electric scooters should NOT be on sidewalks nor in bicycle lanes. Electric scooter riders should be licensed and at least 18. It makes no sense to exempt them from the rules of the road.

For the above reasons, Paris France recently banned all electric scooter rentals.

DO NOT REMOVE ANY PARKING ON PERALTA AVENUE

The Plan would remove 12 or more parking spaces on Peralta Avenue & more on Hopkins & Rose streets. The pickle ball players at the Hopkins-Peralta courts will grab the remaining nearby parking spaces. People won't be able to park in front of their homes again. High speed bicycle lanes with concrete barriers will keep people from safely backing out of their driveways. People without driveways will be forced to park far away from their homes & will risk assault walking or rolling home after dark.

Removing street parking on Peralta Ave and on other nearby streets will result in more auto break-ins, more catalytic converter thefts, & more out right car thefts. Catalytic converters can cost thousands of dollars & many months of waiting to replace. Thieves are savvy. They will quickly recognize the loss of street parking on Peralta as an opportunity to break into cars on adjacent streets that belong to Peralta Avenue residents.

The Plan violates the Americans With Disabilities Act – ADA. The city's consultant acknowledged that no consideration was given to the ADA in the development of this plan.

People on Peralta and nearby streets have healthcare workers who assist them at home. Home healthcare workers depend on easily accessible parking. With no place to park, most of these home health care workers will quit. People will lose their critical home healthcare. Their lives will be put in grave danger.

There would be no place for the delivery people who bring our food and packages to park.

People with driveways would be forced to back out into high speed bicycle lanes.

People without driveways would be trapped in their homes. Is this what the City of Berkeley wants?

The Hopkins – Peralta immediate neighborhood recently had a dangerous car-jacking, and a separate August 13 armed robbery with a reckless get-away driver smashing into cars and narrowly missing a pedestrian.

Our neighborhood is getting more and more dangerous. Don't make it even more dangerous by taking away our street parking.

There's no reason to remove our vitally needed parking spaces.

Safe bicycle lanes can & should be designed w/out taking away street parking.

Tell the consultants to design a safe alternative that does not remove street parking. One way to make Peralta Ave safer for all modes of traffic would be to ban trucks from Peralta Ave now.

WHERE'S THE PUBLIC INPUT?

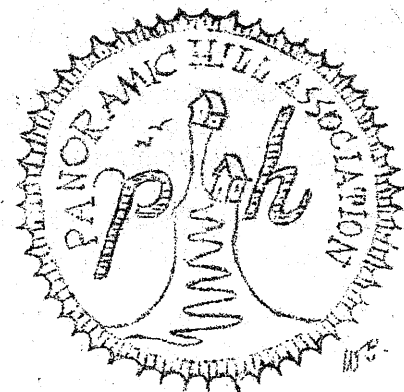
The city is quickly pushing through the Plan now, without public review. We need real public review, before any plan is approved. All we got was a short meeting in February with a consultant who would not take notes. We need more public meetings & a City Council public hearing before any plan is approved. The City should send out postcards to the effected neighborhoods updating them on what is planned & on how to have their voices heard, before any further action is taken.

Please oppose the Ohlone Path Plan as currently proposed.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Starr

PANORAMIC PATTER



Vcl. 1 No. 5 July 1952

AGENDA FOR JULY 22 MEETING (8:00 p.m.
55 Canyon Road)

A. OLD BUSINESS

- (1) Reports of Committees:
Mrs. Cronyn - Treasurer
Mr. Brecher - Traffic
Mr. Miller - Civilian Defense
Mr. Naylor - Planning

- (2) Discussion of alternates for second access road

- (3) Any old business brought up from the floor.

B. NEW BUSINESS

- (1) Polling place for Oakland residents
- (2) Report of Mr. Christoffels
- (3) Any other new business

For the discussion of alternates for a second access road, the following background may be useful:

At the last meeting (2/19/52 Corlett house) the planning committee reported on the results of their inquiries at the City Manager's office in Berkeley and in Oakland. Two alternate roads had been considered--either of which was to connect with Dwight Way above 200 Panoramic Way. Route 1, which would swing into the Deaf School property in order to ease the grade, was estimated at about \$200,000. Route 2, involving severe grades near the top of Dwight was estimated at about \$100,000. In each case there were some 15,000 cubic yds. of cut and 42,000 cubic yds. of fill to cross the canyon above the Macfarlane property. This crossing also involves an expensive drainage system.

In view of the large sums shown by these estimates the planning committee feels that we must either postpone action on the second access road or consider less expensive (and incomplete) solutions to the problem. The alternates, which would be less expensive but which would provide only an emergency-type road, will be discussed.

Betty Cronyn, treasurer, will be on hand at the Tuesday meeting to collect dues. One dollar, please.

Because the Oakland residents of the Hill now have to travel several miles to reach their polling places, there will be a petition, to be signed by Oakland residents only which requests the establishment of a polling place within the neighborhood.

Mr. Christoffels (3040 Fulton Street, Be. 7-1463R), a former resident on Mosswood, has recently completed a class on City Planning and took the Panoramic Hill as his project. He has written a report on the state of our development and on some of our unsolved problems. We have invited him to attend the meeting and tell us about his conclusions.



Panoramic Hill Association

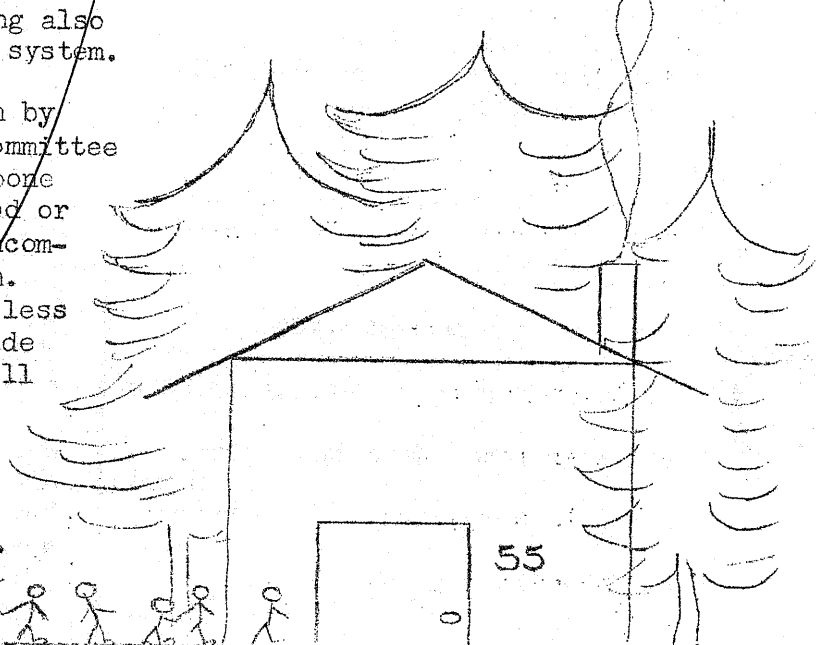
Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 1952

8:00 P. M.

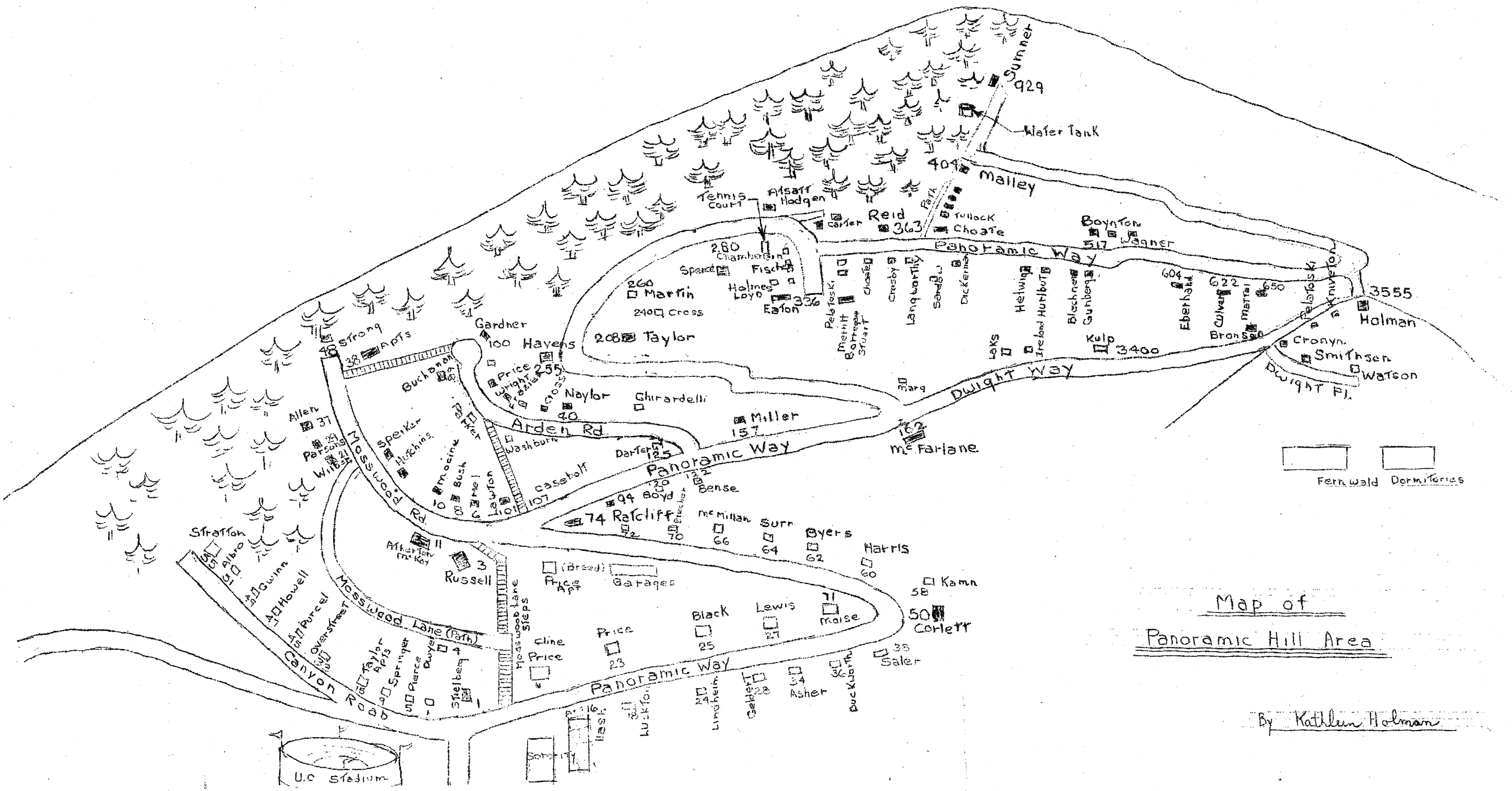
55 Canyon Road - Stratton Home

Refreshments!



Canyon Road

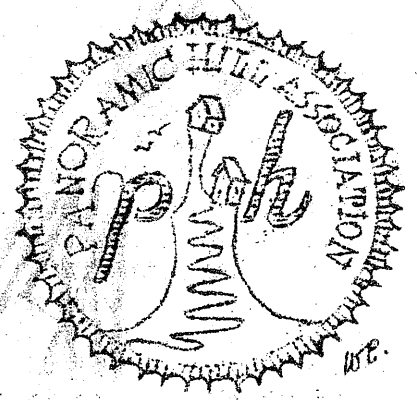
55 Canyon Road



Map of
Panoramic Hill Area

By Kathleen Holman

PANORAMIC PATTER



SUMMARY OF MEETING - JULY, 1952

The principal subject of discussion at the July 1952 meeting of the Association at the Stratton home, was the question of alternate roads.

Mr. Ratcliff reported for the Planning Committee showing the map prepared for the meeting with the City Manager to study the problem of a second access road. A City survey of two years ago connected Panoramic with Dwight Way. The original committee made several studies of possible road extensions (1) Canyon Rd. across to Stonewall to Dwight Way through the dormitory property (judged too narrow) (2) through Blind School property, then on to Dwight Way. This last was investigated by the City in our new attempt to solve the problem. Berkeley's figure was \$80,000 in construction costs, exclusive of lot purchase. The second route, higher up, would cost twice as much. Customary method of paying for such projects is establishment of an assessment district.

Discussion of alternate plans then followed.

The Planning Committee promised continued study of the problem and it was moved and seconded that a panel discussion be had. Further discussion brought an amendment to the motion: the committee should first meet with engineers to explore the situation. The motion and amendment were passed.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This being the first meeting of 1953, we shall have our annual election of officers. In the past a nominating committee has prepared a slate of candidates for president, secretary and treasurer, usually only one for each office; thus we have had practically automatic elections. Some complaints have been made on the undemocratic aspects of our procedure.

This year, each of the retiring officers will nominate a candidate to replace him in office. In addition, it is strongly urged that additional nominations be made from the floor -- provided that each person who makes a nomination will have determined that the person nominated is willing to serve if elected. In this way we hope to be able to obtain a group of officers who have been selected, in the true sense, by a majority of those attending the meeting.

Please come to the meeting prepared to make some nominations; also if you are requested to be a candidate try to accept the nomination. Serving as an officer or as a committeeman for the Association doesn't take a lot of time and we must all work together if our group is to remain active.

* * * * *

AGENDA FOR MARCH 10 MEETING

Reports of Secretary and Treasurer
Election of Officers
Committee Reports
Other Old Business
New Business

Vandalism and public nuisances in the Hill area
Fire precautions and practice runs
Additional proposals for a second access road
Other new business

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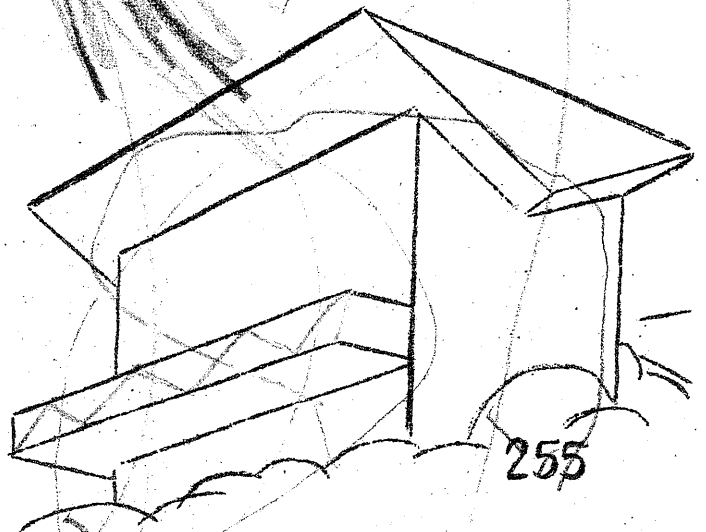
PANORAMIC HILL ASSOCIATION

MEETING

Tuesday, March 10, 1953

8:00 P. M.

25 Panoramic Way - Weston Havens



Re: Motorcycle Riders
And Hot Rod Lads

I hate to hate
But I hate them
Who wake me
Sundays
At 2 a.m. ---edb