

DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

January 22, 2025

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 – Vacant
District 8 – Theo Gordon

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Public Present

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:** Minutes of December 4, 2024 (Chair)
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the December 4, 2024 regular meeting.
Written Material: DFSC 12/4/24 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. **Action:** Approve LHMP Recommendation to Council (Staff)
Recommendation: Recommend to the City Council that the Final Draft 2024 LHMP be adopted
Written Material: *"The Commission recommends that City Council adopt the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), and reminds Council of the LHMP's important role as part of the City's General Plan: to serve as a guiding document to ensure that hazard mitigation goals are integrated into all city planning decisions and activities, including land use decisions. This integration into the General Plan is described in Element E: Plan Update of the final draft 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: "As with prior LHMP updates, this Plan will be well-integrated into the City's existing and future plans and planning mechanisms."*
Presentation: PowerPoint
5. **Discussion/Action:** DFSC Chair & Possible Vice-Chair Election (Bradstreet)
Recommendation: Consider Nominations for the February DFSC Meeting
6. **Discussion/Action:** Berkeley's Wildfire Defense (Staff)
Recommendation: Support the Fire Department's Initiatives
Written Material: Strengthening Berkeley's Wildfire Defense Handout
7. **Discussion/Action:** Los Angeles Fires (Darling)
Recommendation: Ask Community Outreach Working Group to Review Berkeley Ready Programs
8. **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
 - Vision Zero

9. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

-

Adjournment

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 *Keith May* 1/16/2025

## DFSC Staff Report

January 22, 2025

### 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:** No updates

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

- **Updates:** No updates.

- **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** – No updates.

### 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. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP):

a. **Update:** Staff is on the Agenda for a short presentation.

4. 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**

5. Department Activities

- a. **Tsunami Warning:** On December 5, 2024 the National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) issuance of a Tsunami Warning for the M7.0 earthquake that occurred 99 km WNW of Ferndale (the “Warning-level” tsunami alert is the highest threat level). The warning spanned a large segment of the California coastline running from Davenport (10 miles NW of Santa Cruz) to the Oregon border including San Francisco Bay. We are working to complete an After-Action Report (AAR) for this incident that includes feedback themes from a post-incident community survey and will provide a summary once complete.
- b. Southern California Wild Fires: I am sure everyone has been keeping a close watch to the fires and evacuations that are going on in the LA area. We do have an engine crew assigned to a Strike Team in the Palisades area. It is too early to have any ‘After Action Reports’ or Lessons Learned as the event is still considered an active incident.
- c. EMS-4 Graduated in November and they are currently performing their orientation.
- d. EMS-5 Academy started on December 9, 2024.
- e. EMS-6 application period opened on January 6, 2025
- f. Firefighter Academy #113 slated to start on February 3, 2025
- g. Firefighter Academy #114 recruitment will open on January 27, 2025
- h. Berkeley Firefighter Random Acts (BFRA) coordinated this year’s Holiday Food Baskets drive and delivery. With the help of our firefighter showing up on their day off and many external partners, this annual event was the largest to date.
- i. **2024 Call Stats:** 2024 kept pace with the year prior with a total call volume of 17,424 and 41,519 individual unit responses. That represents a 1.33% increase from 2023.

6. Call Volume Report

| Fire Department Report by California Incident Type                                                                             |          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
|                                                                                                                                | November | December |
| <b>Fires – including Encampment Fires</b><br>(structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney, | 55       | 35       |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                             |              |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Encampment Fires</b><br>(structures, warming/cooking, debris)                                                                                                                                            | 44           | 29           |
| <b>Explosion - no fire</b><br>(overpressure ruptures, explosions)                                                                                                                                           | 1            | 0            |
| <b>Rescue &amp; EMS</b> (medical assist, vehicle accident)                                                                                                                                                  | 893          | 888          |
| <b>Hazardous Condition - no fire</b><br>(combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles) | 65           | 81           |
| <b>Service Calls</b> (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)                                                                           | 125          | 106          |
| <b>Good Intent</b> (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)                                                                                                             | 126          | 115          |
| <b>False Alarm Calls</b> (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)                                                                                                                           | 218          | 183          |
| <b>Severe WX</b> (lightening, wind storms)                                                                                                                                                                  | 2            | 0            |
| <b>Special Incidents</b> (citizen complaints)                                                                                                                                                               | 2            | 0            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>1,587</b> | <b>1,408</b> |

|  | Apparatus Count | Apparatus Count |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | 3,367           | 3,157           |

**DFSC Action Tracker**

| Date of DFSC Action | Description | Status |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|
|                     |             |        |
|                     |             |        |



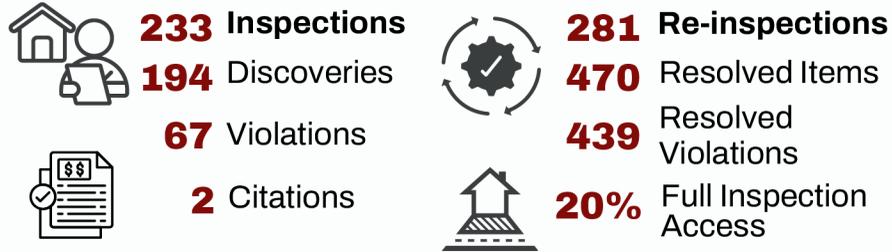
# WILDLAND DIVISION DASHBOARD

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024

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

### Defensible Space Inspections

#### November



#### December\*



\*December was primarily re-inspections, with no violations & discoveries

### Active Programs

#### Eucalyptus Understory Program - Nov & Dec



There are 4 properties to be completed. The program will resume in the spring pending available funds.

#### Home Hardening Mesh Program - Dec



The program started on December 16, 2024. These numbers are both active & year to date.

### Grant Updates

#### County Coordinator

Awarded \$200,000 in April to fund the position.



- Status: Received funds in October, hired interim CC.
- Grant period of performance concluded Dec 31

#### Wildfire Mitigation (Cal FIRE):

Awarded \$1 million to fund the Resident Assistance Program

- Status: Contract is processing

#### Grizzly Peak Clean-up

Awarded \$448,000 in February 2024

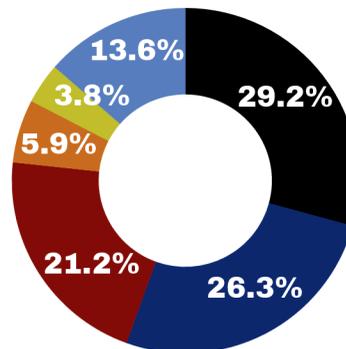


- Status: Pre-planning is completed; Work is planned to begin mid-February, 2025.



#### Chipping Program

The chipping season concluded on December 8, 2024 and will resume March 2025.



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

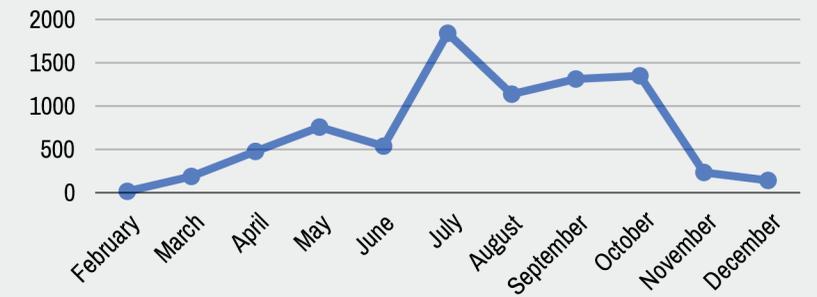
Types of Vegetation Removed by Residents in November

### Year To Date 2024

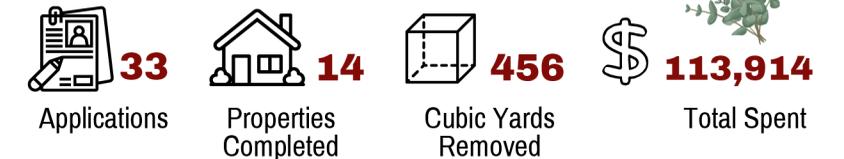
### Inspection Data



### Inspections Over Time



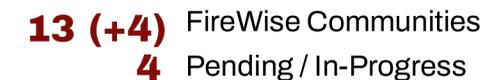
### Eucalyptus Understory Program



### Chipping Program - Year to Date



### FireWise Application Status



# DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2024

7:00 PM

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District 3 – Todd Darling  
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District 7 – Vacant  
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### AGENDA

#### Preliminary Matters

**Call to Order 7:02 PM**

**Present: Wilson, Darling, Kinosian, Dean, Murphy, Gordon(7:10pm), Bradstreet (7:15pm), Katz (7:45pm)**

**Absent:**

**Public Present: 3**

#### Approval of the Agenda

*Discussion –*

*Motion to approve: Wilson*

*Second: Kinosian*

*Agenda approved by Acclamation*

#### Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

*Public speakers:1*

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

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

- 3. Action:** Minutes of October 23, 2024  
**Recommendation:** Approve the draft minutes of the October 23, 2024 regular meeting.  
**Written Material:** DFSC 10/23/24 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Presentation:**

Motion to approve: Gordon

Second: Darling

Vote: Ayes; Wilson, Darling, Murphy, Gordon, Dean(virtual)

Nays:

Abstain:

- 4. Discussion:** Briefing on Pedestrian Fatality 11/15/24 (Wilson)  
**Recommendation:** Possible Future Action of DFSC  
**Written Material:**  
**Presentation:**

Public Speakers: 2

**5. 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
- Vision Zero

**Written Materials:**

**Presentation:**

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

- **Review of Work Groups and functional items**
- **LHMP**
- **Elections**
- **Short and long term plan on Measure FF and GG – is there a planning process in place**
- **Update on non-ductile concrete work**
- **Low cost neighborhood ways to be resilient for EQ, fires**

- **General fund contribution to department**

**Adjournment @ 8:20 by acclamation**

Motion to approve:

Second:

Vote: Ayes; Wilson, Darling, Murphy, Gordon, Dean(virtual), Katz

Nays:

Abstain:

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SECRETARY SIGNATURE

Keith May 12/9/2024



2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

Final Draft Plan

Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

January 22, 2025



Agenda

- Berkeley's 2024 LHMP update
- First Draft
 - Public Outreach
 - Feedback and Resulting Plan Changes
- Final Draft
 - Technical Review
 - DFSC recommendation to Council



Mitigation and the 2024 LHMP

- What is mitigation?
- City of Berkeley 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update
 - Hazard Analysis
 - Mitigation Strategy
- Financial incentives for compliant LHMP - mitigation grant funding
 - Pre-disaster
 - Disaster recovery
- See Element B: *Risk Assessment*
- See Element C: *Mitigation Strategy*



First Draft Plan: Public Outreach

- First Draft Plan update
 - Public Review: May 24, 2024 – August 8, 2024
 - Staff presentations at Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
 - Staff Presentation at Council Public Safety Committee
 - Public Workshops at Central Library and Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch
 - 20 letters with 100 comments/questions
 - Over 50 comments at Public Workshops
-
- See Element A: *Planning Process*



Public Feedback Trends and Resulting Plan Changes

- Hazardous vegetation
 - Evacuation in the Berkeley Hills
 - Land Use Controls' Impacts on Emergency Services
 - Hard to read maps
 - www.berkeleyca.gov/mitigation
-
- *See Summary of Changes to First Draft 2024 LHMP*



Final Draft: Technical Review

- Cal Office of Emergency Services
 - Approved November 27, 2024
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - Approved January 13, 2025





Final Draft Plan: Public Outreach

- Next steps

- Tonight: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Recommendation to Council
- February 5: Planning Commission Recommendation to Council (**First Public Hearing**)
- March 18: City Council Adoption Decision (**Second Public Hearing**)

December 10, 2024: 2019 Plan Expired



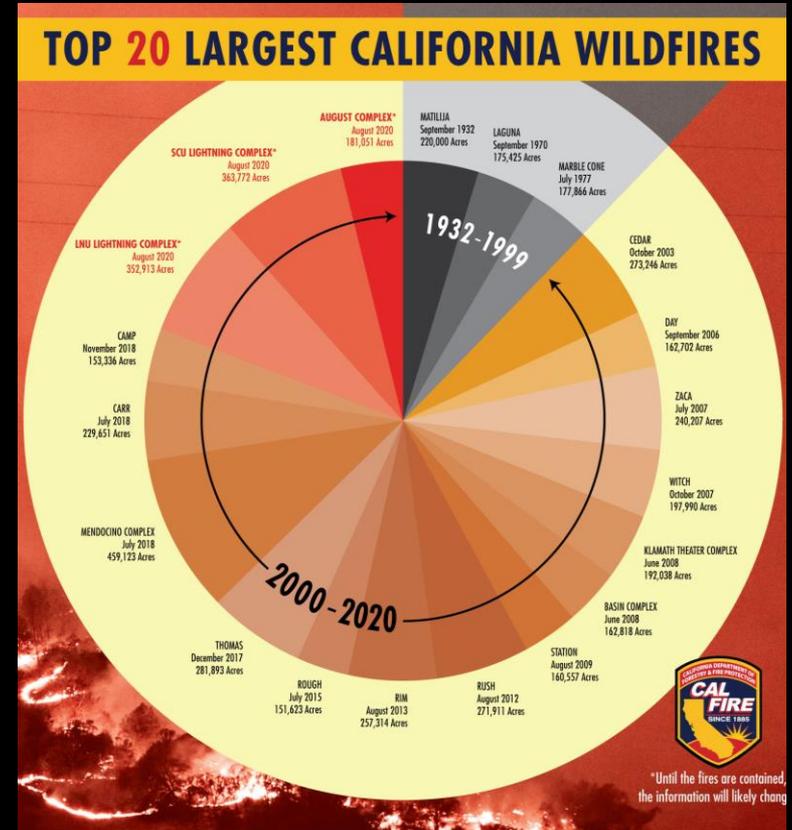
Effective Measures for Berkeley's Ember Resilience (EMBER)



January 22, 2025

Exponential Increase in Acres Burned

- The intensity and frequency of wildfires has increased
- Fires are more frequent and more powerful during periods of drought
- California Drought History
 - 2020-2021
 - 2012-2016
 - 2007-2009
 - 1987-1992
 - 1976-1977

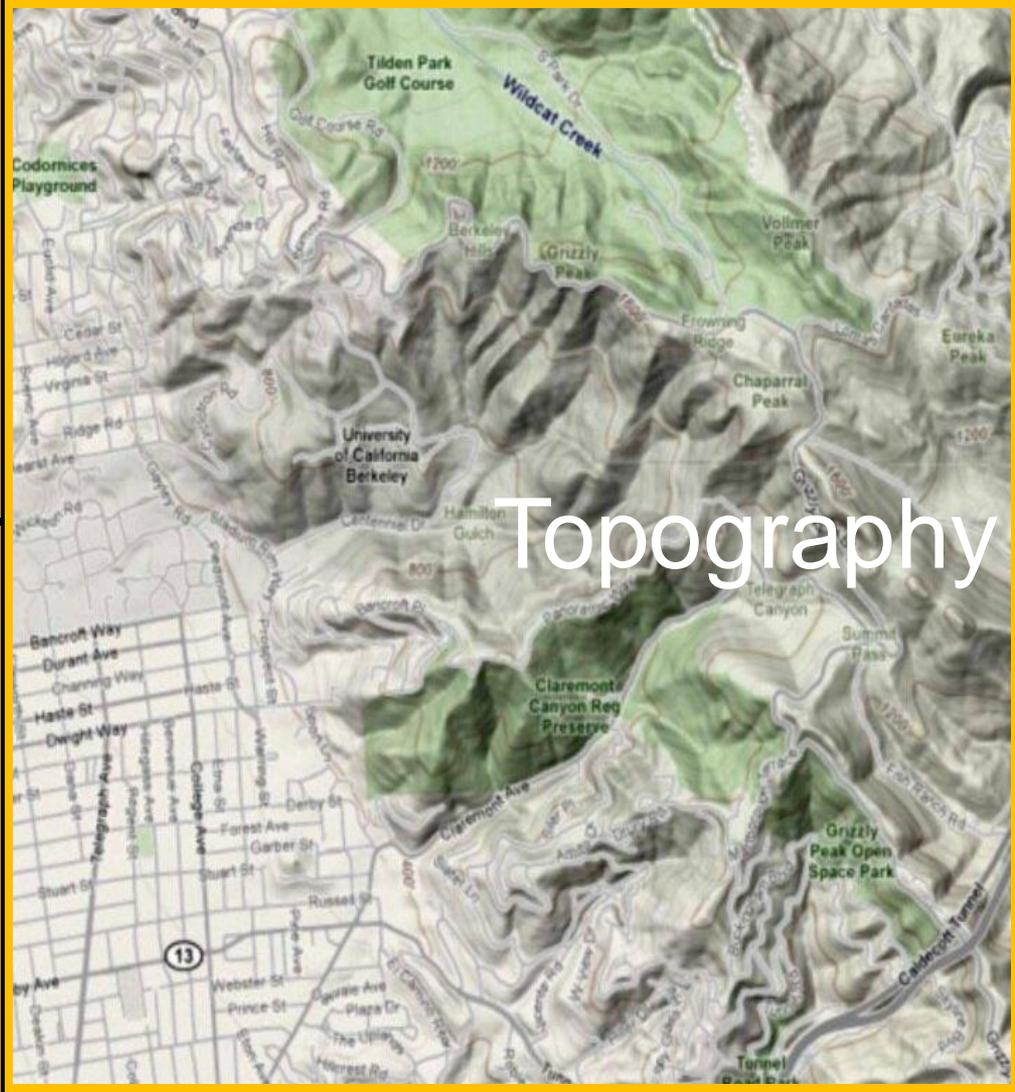


RED FLAG WARNING

FIRE WEATHER WATCH RED FLAG WARNING



Weather



Topography



THEN



NOW

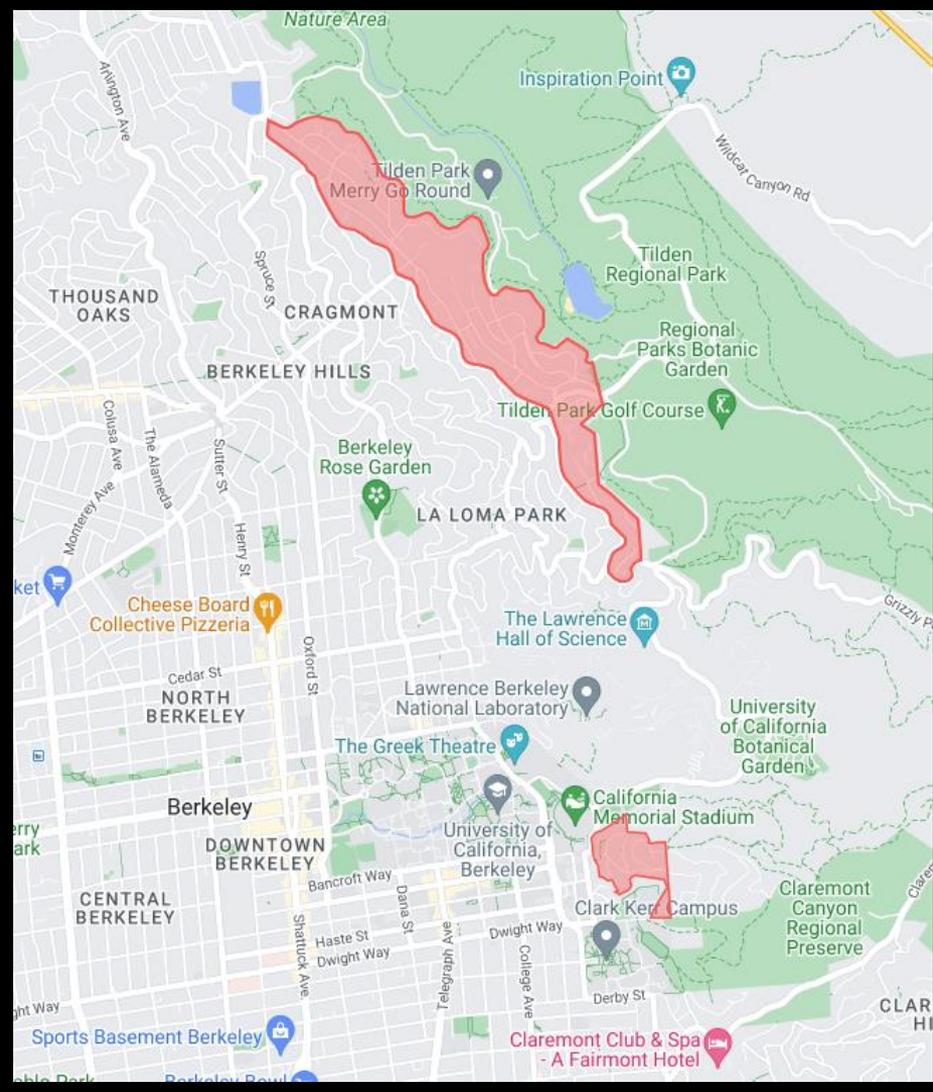
Fuel

Our Desired End State

AHEAD OF THE EVENT	
+	Disrupted Contiguous Fuel Pathways
+	Mitigated Receptive Fuel Beds Around Structures (Zone 0: Prevent Ember Ignition) *
+	Required/Incentivized Home Hardening *
+	Fire Department Properly Staffed and Deployed
FIRE WEATHER FORCASTED	
+	Early Fire Weather Warning
+	"Leave Early" Advisory Issued
+	Residents Leave High-Risk Fire Zones
IGNITION	
+	Early Detection
+	Early Evacuation Orders and Warnings Issued
+	Organized Evacuation
+	A Very Large Firefighting Response
Best Chance of Control/Extinguishment	
<i>* Zone 0 and home hardening have to occur with enough density in a given neighborhood to community immunity, otherwise fire will find its way through the weakest link/</i>	

EMBER

- New Zone 2WA (Wildland Adjacent)
- Zone 3 + Zone 2WA
 - Adoption of Zone 0
 - Home Hardening Incentives & Requirements
 - Parking Restrictions & Enforcement
 - Coaching
- Focused Education, Inspection, Incentives and Enforcement in Z3 & Z2WA
- Fire Weather / Leave Early
- Early Detection



Maintaining the status quo will continue to result in similar, disastrous outcomes

Fire Name	County	Acres	Date	Structures	Deaths
Lahaina	Maui	2,170	08/2023	2,200	102
Camp	Butte	153,336	11/2018	18,804	86
Tunnel	Alameda	1,600	10/1991	2,900	29
Thomas	Ventura, Santa Barbara	281,893	12/2017	1,063	23
Tubbs	Napa, Sonoma	36,807	10/2017	5,643	22
Eaton	Los Angeles	14,117	01/2025	7,000+	16
North Complex	Plumas, Butte	318,935	08/2020	2,352	15
Cedar	San Diego	273,246	10/2003	2,820	15
Palisades	Los Angeles	23,713	01/2025	5,000+	25



< Zone 0

Home Hardening >



NOT PROTECTED

PROTECTED FROM EMBERS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND FIRE RESISTANT BUILDING MATERIALS.

Key Vulnerabilities Enable Fire to Spread



CaFIRE VIDEO

Fire Safe Landscaping

you can still have a beautiful garden and be FireSafe!



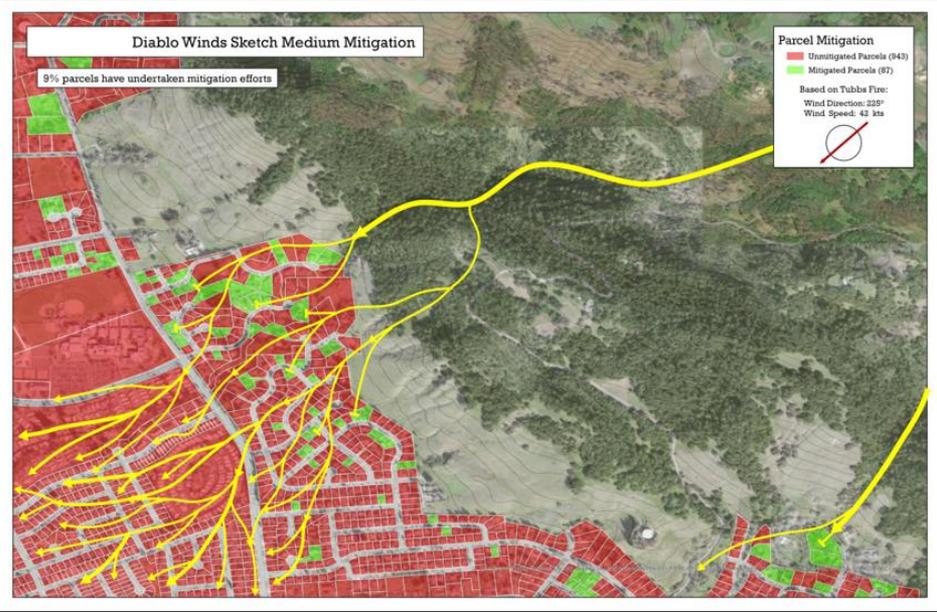
This yard shows plant separation, good use of mulch and hardscape, and shaded fuel breaks on the hillside



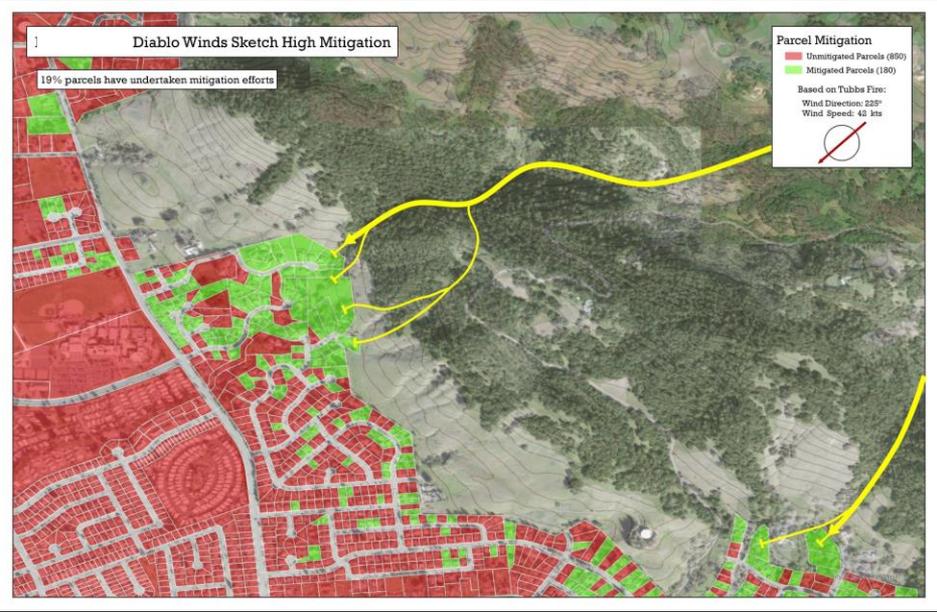
Max Whittaker, New York Times

Fire/Ember Barrier Wall. Kinkadee Fire (2019)

Fire seeks the path of least resistance — the weakest link



Salt & Pepper Approach

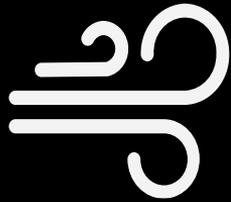


Community Immunity / Buffer

Wildfire Progression / Unmitigated Community



Fuel



Weather



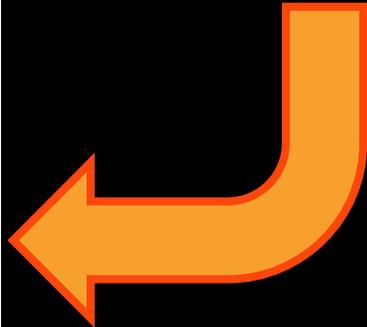
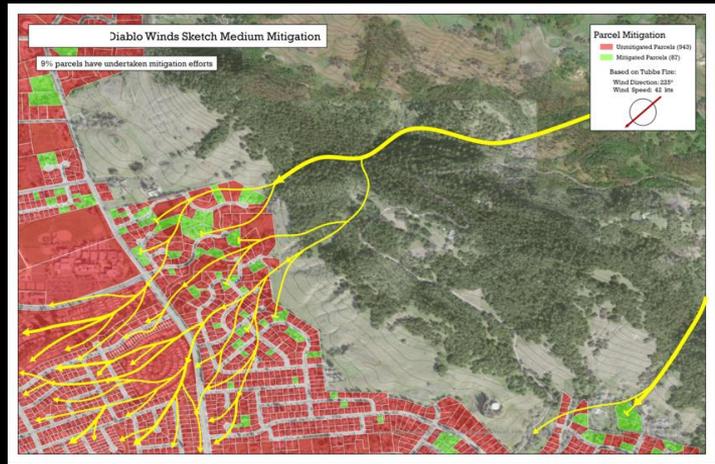
Topography



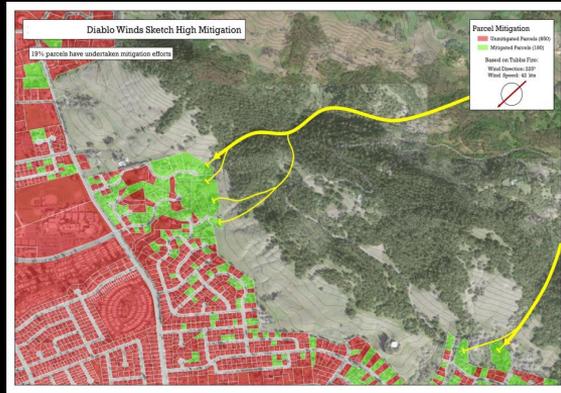
Fire Spreads Quickly



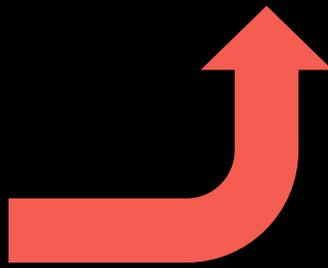
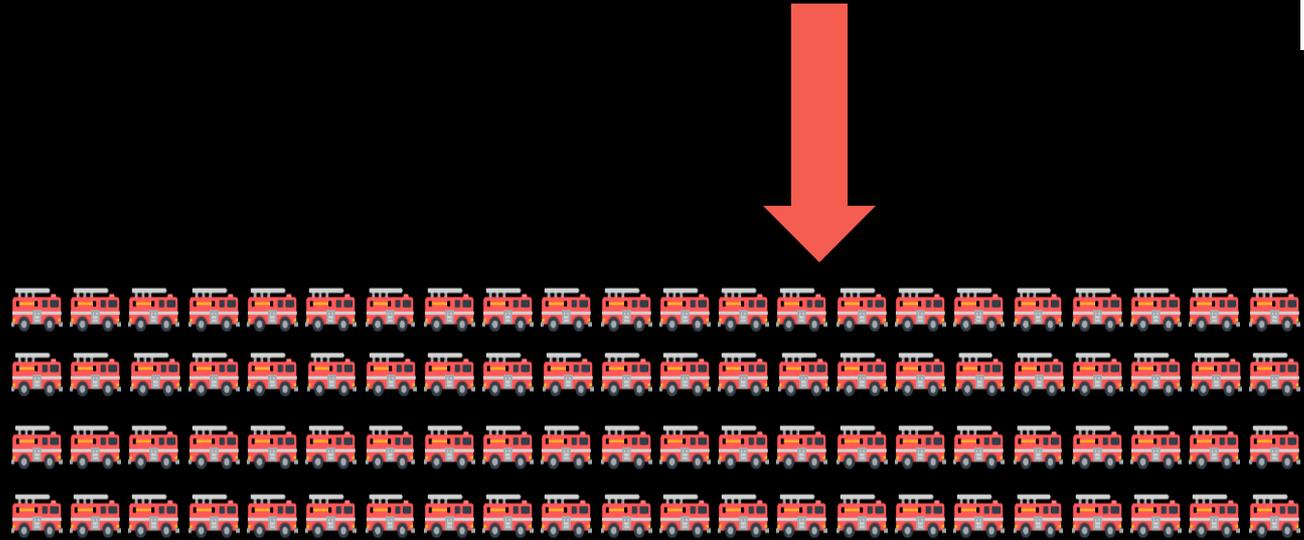
East Bay Times

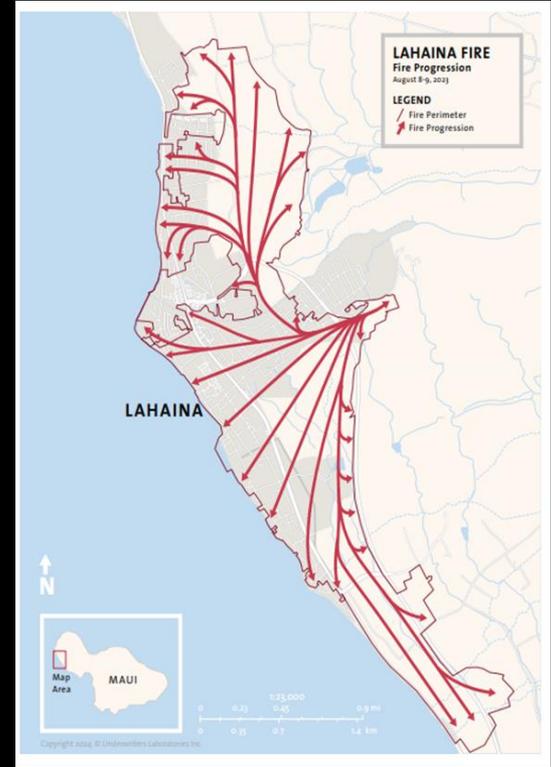
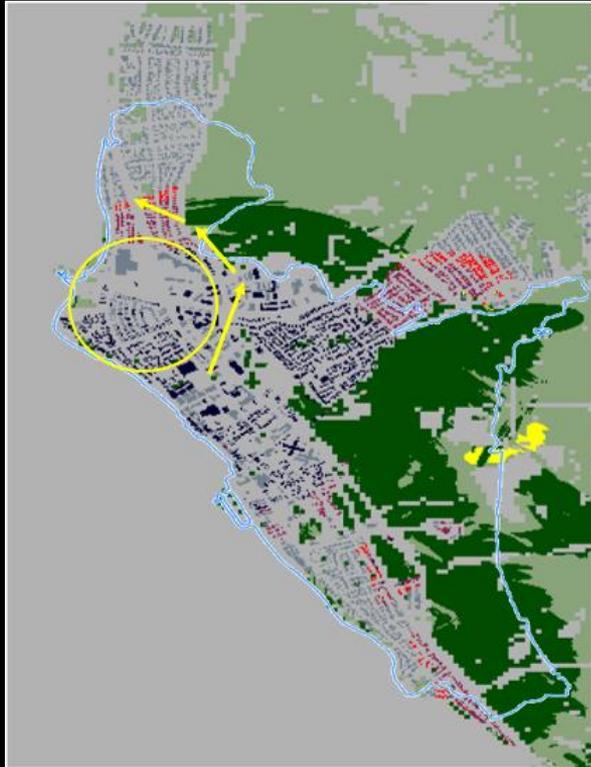


Wildfire Progression / Mitigated Community



Slower Fire Spread
Fewer Ignitions





Forward
TOGETHER



berkeleyfiresafe.org



From: [Katz, Mary-Claire](#)
To: [Katz, Mary-Claire](#)
Cc: [Larrowe, Kathryn](#)
Subject: FW: Notice of Funding Availability: FY 2025 CDBG Community Facility Improvement Program & 1/15/2025 Workshop
Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2025 4:44:42 PM
Attachments: [FINAL_NOFA_Facilities_FY25.pdf](#)

Hello Commission Secretaries, please share the below notice of funding availability for the City's CDBG Community Facility Improvement Program with your commissions. Thank you!

From: Katz, Mary-Claire <MKatz@berkeleyca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 4:18 PM
To: Katz, Mary-Claire <MKatz@berkeleyca.gov>
Cc: Larrowe, Kathryn <KLarrowe@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Notice of Funding Availability: FY 2025 CDBG Community Facility Improvement Program & 1/15/2025 Workshop

Dear Community Partners,

We are excited to announce that the City of Berkeley has available funding under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for improvements to existing facilities located in Berkeley. There is approximately \$322,000 in CDBG funds available for this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Please see the attached NOFA flyer for information on the program eligibility guidelines and application process.

Interested applicants should attend the Zoom workshop on January 15th at 11:00 a.m. to find out more about the application and review process.

Zoom Workshop for Community Facility Improvement Program NOFA

Date: January 15, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Workshop Zoom Link

[Join the Meeting](#)

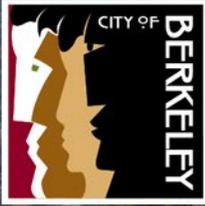
Please note that all applications must be submitted via an online, web-based process using [City Data Services](#). Instructions for applying are included in the attached flyer.

Submitted applications will be confirmed for eligibility and considered at the next possible Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) CDBG Subcommittee meeting, usually held at the end of the month. The HAC will consider applications at their monthly meeting, usually the first Thursday of each month, and will make a recommendation either to the City Manager or Council.

You can find more information and updates on the City's CDBG webpage located

[here](#).

If you have any questions or require assistance in submitting the application, or need a disability-related accommodation, please contact Mary-Claire Katz, Health, Housing & Community Services Department, at (510) 981-5414 or by email at mkatz@berkeleyca.gov.



City of Berkeley

Health, Housing, and Community Services

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

This NOFA is for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and projects will be reviewed and funded on a monthly basis until all funds are exhausted.

TIMEFRAME	NOFA ACTIVITY
January 8	The NOFA application will be open for submission through City Data Services at www.citydataservices.com
January 15	Workshop for Community Facility Improvement Program Proposals via Zoom at 11:00 AM Zoom Link: LINK
1 st Monday of Each Month	Applications due for consideration of the next month's Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) Meeting
1 st Thursday of Each Month ¹	Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) review and make funding recommendations to City Manager/Council
Ongoing according to Council schedule	For projects at and above \$200,000, Council considers City Manager and HAC funding recommendations ²

¹ The HAC Public Facilities Improvements NOFA Applications Review Subcommittee will be the first body to review all complete and eligible applications. They should be able to do so between the deadline for submitting applications and the following month's HAC meeting. However, there may be instances when this is not possible.

² Please refer to the HAC meeting schedule on the City's Commission website at <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions>. Applications that have been recommended for funding will typically go to Council for approval two months from the HAC meeting.

NOFA BACKGROUND & AVAILABLE AMOUNTS

The City of Berkeley has available funding under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for improvements to existing facilities located in Berkeley that are open to the public and primarily serve low-income individuals, including homeless shelters and transitional housing for homeless households. We anticipate \$322,000 ³ in CDBG funds available for this NOFA.

The City allocation of funds for proposals received under this NOFA will take into consideration funding requirements and local plans and priorities. Federal legislation requires that each Entitlement Jurisdiction submit a Consolidated Plan to Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which the City of Berkeley does every five years. The Consolidated Plan is augmented by annual updates (Annual Action Plans) that include program priorities, proposed activities to be funded with CDBG, and how federal funds will be coordinated with local funds and programs to achieve the goals contained in the Consolidated Plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public meetings are a crucial component of the allocation process and provide citizens with a direct mechanism to participate and to express their views. The Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) is a citizen body authorized by the City Council to hold public meetings, review proposals, and make funding recommendations to the City Manager and Council. Thus, it will need to approve any application for funding. Additionally, the HAC has formed a CDBG subcommittee to be the first body to review applications and make recommendations to the full Commission. The HAC may hold additional meetings to review proposals in more detail. Any additional meetings will be noticed and posted in accordance with City Commission procedures. Please refer to the City's website for more information about commission schedules: <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions>

Proposals valued under \$200,000 recommended by HAC can be approved the City Manager. Proposals valued at or above \$200,000, must also receive City Council approval.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

CDBG Program - The CDBG Program is a federal program that has been in effect since 1975. The primary objective of the CDBG Program is the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income. At least 70% of the total CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons; at least 51% of the beneficiaries of individual activities must be low- and moderate-income persons. Eligible CDBG activities are defined by federal

³ Estimate, subject to change

program regulations. Eligible uses of CDBG funds that will be considered under this NOFA include:

✓ **Rehabilitation of public facilities:**

The City expects up to have approximately \$322,000 in CDBG funds to be available to support rehabilitation of existing facilities that are open to the public and serve a low-income population, including homeless shelters and transitional housing for homeless households. Eligible costs under this category include renovation costs, project management costs, and permits and fees. CDBG funds can only be used for public facilities located in Berkeley that primarily serve Berkeley residents.

Priority will be given to projects that include significant ADA improvements, health and safety, and energy efficiency measures. Additionally, in order to be eligible, projects must have a minimum five-year site control. In order for a project activity to be eligible for CDBG funding, it must meet one of the following three national objectives: principally benefits low/moderate income persons (80% of area median income or below); or aids in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight; or meets community needs having a particular urgency.

FEDERAL, STATE and LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants for funding will be required to adhere to federal, state and local laws and regulations upon entering into a contract with the City of Berkeley including, but not limited to, Davis Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) and Labor Standards, and the Build America Buy America Act (BABA).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Projects will be assessed for minimum eligibility including responsiveness to eligibility requirements, project readiness, feasibility, how well the project meets a priority community need (including but not limited to accessibility, health and safety, energy efficiency), past performance or experience, and community impact. The City and the HAC will evaluate each individual proposal and reserve the right to not recommend a project based on any of the above criteria and/or if there are insufficient funds for a proposal.

APPLYING FOR FUNDS

Any community organization or City/government agency that has a project that falls within eligible guidelines may apply for funding. However, to receive funding, a community agency must be a not-for-profit corporation or government entity. All

**CDBG FUNDS CANNOT
BE USED FOR...**

- ✓ Renovation of administrative offices, however, buildings with mixed use administrative offices/public-serving areas are eligible
- ✓ Facility improvements and designs that are not followed by construction
- ✓ Pre-project activities
- ✓ Purchase of equipment
- ✓ Furnishings and personal property

agencies submitting community facility improvement proposals are strongly encouraged to attend the NOFA workshop listed below.

Workshop for Community Facility Improvement Program Proposals

January 15, 2025

11:00 AM

Workshop Zoom Link:

[LINK](#)

Questions and answers resulting from these workshops will be posted on the City's [Community Development Block Grant Funding website](#). Questions of substance relating to the NOFA and technical issues related to the web-based application process will be answered and posted on the City's website throughout the application period in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.

Applications for FY 2025 under this NOFA must be submitted via an online, web-based process through City Data Services

For new City Data Services users, go to <https://www.citydataservices.net/> and log in with the following User ID and Password:

User ID: BER2025

Password: BER2025

Once you log in, you will see a form that collects some basic agency information. Complete and submit the form to obtain a unique User ID and Password that you will use to submit your application.

For current City Data Services users, go to <https://www.citydataservices.net/> and log in with your existing User ID and Password. You will have an "Apply for 2025" link on your main page. Use this link to begin the submission of your application. For technical issues with submitting data via City Data Services, please contact them via the "Help with this page" button on their website.

All applications must be submitted via the online application system. Applications for available funds will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed monthly by the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) which meets on the first Thursday of each month. Agencies

must submit complete applications by the first Monday of the month to be considered for the HAC meeting on the first Thursday of the following month.

**THE CITY OF BERKELEY WILL NOT ACCEPT
INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

If you have any questions, require assistance in submitting the application, or need a disability-related accommodation, please contact Mary-Claire Katz, Health, Housing & Community Services Department, at (510) 981-5414 or by email at mkatz@berkeleyca.gov

From: [Sprague, David A.](#)
To: [May, Keith](#)
Subject: Communication to Commission
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 8:52:46 AM

Internal

Chief, can you please forward this to our Commissioners? I would like them to be aware of what we are working on.

Current Situation

The horror and tragedy suffered by residents and responders in the Los Angeles area is the most recent demonstration that fire is inevitable in our landscape, even more so as the climate changes, and that maintaining the status quo will continue to result in similar, disastrous outcomes. Below is a partial of the numerous fires that have reminded us of the destruction of property and loss of life that is possible here in Berkeley. Today our community is presented with an opportunity to act, to recognize the suffering of so many whose lives were upended, and to honor the memories of the people who died.

Fire Name	County	Acres	Date	Structures	Deaths
Lahaina	Maui	2,170	08/2023	2,200	102
Camp	Butte	153,336	11/2018	18,804	86
Tunnel	Alameda	1,600	10/1991	2,900	29
Thomas	Ventura, Santa Barbara	281,893	12/2017	1,063	23
Tubbs	Napa, Sonoma	36,807	10/2017	5,643	22
Eaton	Los Angeles	14,117	01/2025	7,000+	16
North Complex	Plumas, Butte	318,935	08/2020	2,352	15
Cedar	San Diego	273,246	10/2003	2,820	15
Palisades	Los Angeles	23,713	01/2025	5,000+	08

These recent catastrophic wildfires, including those in Lahaina, Paradise, Coffey Park, and the Los Angeles area, underscore key vulnerabilities that enabled devastating fire behavior, structural losses, and death. Common factors included widespread pre-2008 construction that was lacking modern fire-resistant standards; delays in statewide adoption of the ember resistant zone “Zone 0”; and the need for more stringent mandatory fire prevention measures in vulnerable neighborhoods, particularly at points where [wild] fire pathways intersect developed communities. These factors have, again and again, contributed to vegetative wildfires penetrating the edges of developed communities, igniting structures, and escalating into a structure-to-structure conflagration, which overwhelm all available firefighting resources.

Berkeley and the East Bay Hills have a cyclical relationship with wildfire. Before European colonizers arrived, California experienced many small, frequent fires ^[1]. These low-intensity fires were beneficial for the landscape because they cleaned out underbrush — which otherwise serves as fuel for larger fires — and helped native species regenerate. Along with other wildfire prone regions, the East Bay has suffered from the exclusion of wildfire from the landscape for over 100 years. This has resulted in an abundance of vegetative fuel intermixed with a dense urban development with an undersized network of roadways. Because of the exclusion of fire, and the progression of climate change, the immediate Berkeley area has experienced a significant wildfire on average every 20 years ^[2] since 1905, with 2024 marking the 33rd year since the last major fire in this area. Since

2020, the City has been moving with great haste to research and bring best practices in wildfire planning, prevention and response to Berkeley.

Now is the time to take pragmatic action and adopt unadulterated, scientifically validated mitigation measures that are known to reduce the vulnerability of a neighborhood from ignition during a wildfire are the best chance that a community has to minimize the risk of this vegetative to urban fire transition. This memo summarizes a suite of policies called the “2025 Effective Measures for Berkeley’s Ember Resilience (EMBER)” which shore up these vulnerabilities to achieve the safest conditions that we know to be possible sans a managed retreat from the Berkeley Hills. The EMBER will be presented to the Commission in detail at its January meeting for discussion and action. The proposals are structured around proactive measures to be implemented (1) before a fire occurs, (2) when forecasted fire weather is announced, and (3) in response to an actual ignition during a period of high fire danger.

AHEAD OF THE EVENT	
+	Disrupted Contiguous Fuel Pathways
+	Mitigated Receptive Fuel Beds Around Structures (Zone 0: Prevent Ember Ignition) *
+	Required/Incentivized Home Hardening *
+	Fire Department Properly Staffed and Deployed
FIRE WEATHER FORCASTED	
+	Early Fire Weather Warning
+	“Leave Early” Advisory Issued
+	Residents Leave High-Risk Fire Zones
IGNITION	
+	Early Detection
+	Early Evacuation Orders and Warnings Issued
+	Organized Evacuation
+	A Very Large Firefighting Response
=	Best Chance of Control/Extinguishment
<i>* Zone 0 and home hardening have to occur with enough density in a given neighborhood to in essence, create herd immunity, otherwise fire will find its way through like water through a small hole in a roof.</i>	

Proposed Actions: Berkeley Fire Zone 3

1. Modification of Zone 3 Boundaries: Create a Buffer
 - Include the areas between Wildcat Canyon Rd. to the east, Grizzly Peak Blvd to the west, and the Berkeley City Limits to the north and south – revised map [here](#).
2. Defensible Space Inspection Program Modifications: Make the Yard Ember Resistant
 - Adopt, as a part of the Fire Code, an ember resistant zone “Zone Zero” requirement, effectively eliminating all combustible material within the first five feet around a home, inclusive of mulch, wooden fences/gates,

combustible furniture, trellises, climbing vines, vegetation, or other material that could be ignited by embers or direct flame.

- Temporarily focus the City's efforts around education, defensible space inspection and enforcement actions to Berkeley Fire Zone 3 until the desired density of compliance is achieved.
 - Prioritize Resident Assistance Program (RAP) funding for in Zone 3 projects. Funds will be used to subsidize Zone 0/Defensible Space work for qualifying residents.
3. Home Hardening: Make the Home Ember Resistant
- Distribute free fire-rated mesh to cover gutters and vents.
 - Incentivize replacement of wood fences and gates that are within five feet of a home or directly connect to a home (fences act as wicks and spread fire).
 - Incentivize homeowners to perform mitigation efforts that align their homes with either IBHS Basic or CDI: Safer from Wildfire standards. This will provide the best chance to be insured outside of the FAIR plan AND will provide the best protection against ignition.
 - The City will explore a low-interest loan programs for home hardening efforts undertaken by residents.
4. Move People Out of Harm's Way: Leave Early to Stay Safe
- Evaluate Berkeley's fire weather threshold in comparison to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS).
 - Research and implement enforcement of red curbs, including installation of appropriate signage allowing towing of vehicles found in violation.
 - Enhance police department staffing to allow for proactive patrols of this Zone during high fire danger days.

Proposed Actions: Berkeley Fire Zones 2 & 3

1. Home Hardening:
 - a. Change the building code to prohibit repair and maintenance of shake roofs. Force replacement of these fire hazardous features with a Class A, non-combustible roof.
2. Other Supportive Actions:
 - a. City coordination with landscape architects who specialize in creating landscape plans that are fire safe and compliant with Zone 0.
 - b. City coordination with contractors who specialize in home hardening.
 - c. City coordination with the third-party entity that is empowered by IBHS to conduct certification inspection.

Proposed Timeline:

- Now thru 2/11: Variety of public messages and meetings to raise awareness

and gain input to the proposal – we have to move forward as a community if this is going to work!

- 1/22: Presentation of EMBER to DFSC
- TBD: Various Public Messaging
- TBD: Community Meeting
- TBD: As Needed special DFSC meeting to continue discussion/take action
- 2/11: Special Wildfire Focused City Council Meeting
 - 1st Reading of any proposed ordinances
- TBD: 2nd reading of any proposed ordinances

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Chief David Sprague
Berkeley Fire Department

Follow us on:



[1] <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/california-wildfire-history/>

[2] https://www.cbparks.org/sites/default/files/history_all_fires.pdf