

DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

March 26, 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 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste
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 February 26, 2025 (Chair)
Recommendation: Approve the Draft Minutes of the February 26, 2025 Regular Meeting.
Written Material: DFSC 2/26/25 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes

4. **Discussion/Action:** DFSC Vice-Chair Election (Staff)
Recommendation: Vote in New Vice-Chair

5. **Discussion:** Planning Department Safety Element Update of the General Plan Presentation (Staff)
Written Material: PowerPoint Presentation

6. **Discussion:** Measure FF Budget Allocation Presentation (Staff)
Presentation: PowerPoint Presentation

7. **Discussion/Action:** Recommendation to City Council to Remove Pre-Transfer Eligibility Restriction of The Transfer Tax Rebate for Wildfire Hardening (Katz)
Recommendation: Approve Referral to City Council
Written Material: Commission Report Draft

8. **Discussion/Action:** Review Current & FY25/26 Work Plan (Murphy)
Recommendation:
Written Material: Work Plan

9. **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

10. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps
 - PIG/CPI Recommendation Memo to City Council
 - Berkeley Ready Program Presentation

*Chair

**Vice-Chair

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*      3/20/2025

## DFSC Staff Report

March 26, 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:** The WUI Interns started inspections in the Panoramic neighborhood and the Right of Entry (ROI) is being tested. The ROI will allow a property owner to give our inspectors permission to access to a property when the resident is not at home.
- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections –**
  - **Updates:** The 15<sup>th</sup> Firewise Community was just certified. The Chipper Program is now taking reservations for 2025.
  - **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.**

### 2. Measure GG Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview – No new update

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

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

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

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

3. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures. *(Measure FF has funded the study only)*

a. Update: **No new update**

4. Department Activities

- a. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the Final Draft of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into the General Plan’s Safety Element. Our staff will be working with Cal OES to ensure appropriate documentation is in place so that if there is a disaster, the City will be eligible for the State to cover the City’s 6.25% share of recovery costs.
- b. Our Office of Emergency Services (OES) staff have held the following public outreach classes: In-Person and Online Household Fire Weather Planning Workshop, 5 Critical Steps Online Planning Workshop. OES staff is intentionally designing these workshops so that participants take tangible steps within the course to further their preparedness, rather than just listening and learning.
- c. We are pleased to announce that Rania Ahmed will be joining our team as Program Manager II in the Division of Strategic Partnerships and Programs. Rania will play a key role in the development and leadership of the novel Street Trauma Prevention Program (STTP), working to represent Berkeley Fire Department’s interests and support the City’s ongoing efforts to eliminate traffic-related deaths and severe injuries.

Rania brings extensive experience from both the government and nonprofit sectors, specializing in data-driven research and evaluation to develop impactful programs that enhance public health and safety while addressing the unique needs of diverse communities. Her expertise spans strategic planning, authentic community education and engagement, data analysis, trauma-informed care and prevention, and collaborative initiatives.

Rania holds an M.A. in Urban Affairs from the University of San Francisco and a B.S. in Urban Planning from Cairo University, Egypt.

5. Call Volume Report

| Fire Department Report by California Incident Type                                       |    |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--|
| February                                                                                 |    |  |
| <b>Fires – including Encampment Fires</b><br>(structures, mobile properties, vegetation, | 35 |  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|
| rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,                                                                                                                                                                       |     |  |
| <b>Encampment Fires</b><br>(structures, warming/cooking, debris)                                                                                                                                            | 24  |  |
| <b>Explosion</b> - no fire<br>(overpressure ruptures, explosions)                                                                                                                                           | 1   |  |
| <b>Rescue &amp; EMS</b> (medical assist, vehicle accident)                                                                                                                                                  | 857 |  |
| <b>Hazardous Condition</b> - no fire<br>(combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles) | 55  |  |
| <b>Service Calls</b> (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)                                                                           | 88  |  |
| <b>Good Intent</b> (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)                                                                                                             | 99  |  |
| <b>False Alarm Calls</b> (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)                                                                                                                           | 217 |  |
| <b>Severe WX</b> (lightening, wind storms)                                                                                                                                                                  | 0   |  |

Public

|                                               |              |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Special Incidents</b> (citizen complaints) | 1            |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>1,353</b> |  |
| <b>Apparatus Count</b>                        |              |  |
|                                               | <b>3,133</b> |  |

**DFSC Action Tracker**

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

# WILDLAND FIRE MITIGATION MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

Prepared by the SPP Division



## Program Data - Cumulative 2024-2025 (+/- current month)



### Grizzly Peak Clean-up

<https://www.berkeleyfiresafe.org/grizzly-peak>

- Phase one - Started on February 17
- .8 miles cleared on Wildcat Canyon
- Initiated Plant Replacement Program for properties where removal is required



### FireWise Application Status



**13** FireWise Communities **4** Pending / In-Progress



### Home Hardening Mesh Program



**136(+32)**

Applications



**80(+38)**

Pickups



**25(+13)**

Deliveries



### Eucalyptus Understory Program



**40(+7)**

Applications



**24(+4)**

Properties Completed



**120,714**

Total Spent



### Chipping Program

The Chipper Program will begin for the 2025 season in March, coinciding with the beginning of the 2025 inspection season.



**2778(+0)**

Cubic yards removed



**1013(+0)**

Pickups



**28(+0)**

Weeks Completed

## Defensible Space Inspections - February only



**61**

Inspections

**10**

Re-Inspections

**0**

Violations

**9**

Discoveries

**29**

Resolved Violations

**4**

Total Citations

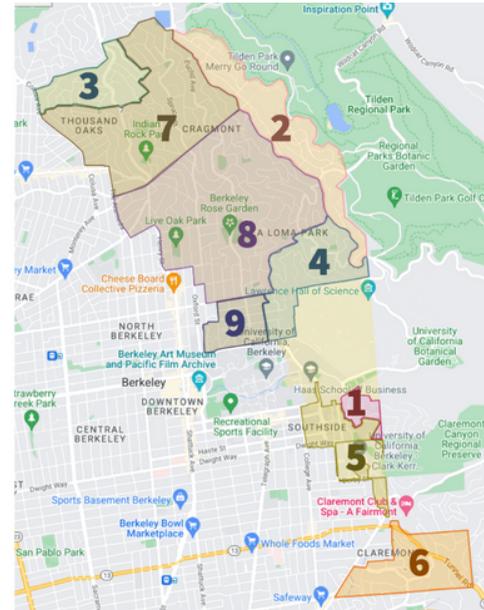
**35**

Resolved Items

**29%**

Full Inspection Access

## Defensible Space Inspection Season Target Schedule



1. March  
Panoramic Hill
2. April  
East of Grizzly Peak
3. May  
Cerrito Canyon
4. June  
Proximal to LBNL
5. July  
Derby Creek
6. August  
Tunnel Road
7. September  
North of Marin Ave
8. October  
South of Marin Ave
9. November  
North of Campus

## Grant Acquisition & Strategic Planning



The Strategic Programs & Projects (SPP) Division has advanced several significant funding initiatives during this period to support the WUI Division.

The SPP Division successfully submitted multiple grant applications totaling over \$2.3 million to support critical wildfire safety programs, including:

- \$356,000 to address funding shortfalls for the Grizzly Peak project
- \$750,000 to sustain the intern inspector program for three years, securing this at-risk initiative
- \$1.2 million to maintain defensible space for Residential Assistance Program participants and create Zone 0 enhancements in support of the EMBER initiative
- Additionally, the SPP Division is preparing a substantial grant application to fund a comprehensive home hardening program in collaboration with the Resilient Buildings Division.
- The SPP Division continues to explore formal partnerships with external agencies to enhance community resilience and strengthen existing projects.

### In other developments:

- Consultants completed their fire pathway analysis for Alameda County. BFD staff are translating these highly technical findings into accessible resources designed for community use and understanding.



## DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 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 – 7:54 pm  
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean  
District 6 – Greg Murphy  
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste  
District 8 – Theo Gordon –7:05pm

### AGENDA

#### Preliminary Matters

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Public Present

2

#### Approval of the Agenda

*Discussion – Remove Item 7 from this meeting  
Agenda approved as amended 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 January 22, 2025 (Chair)  
**Recommendation:** Approve the draft minutes of the January 22, 2025 regular meeting.  
**Written Material:** DFSC 1/22/25 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes  
Motion to approve: Approved by Acclamation
- 4. Discussion/Action:** DFSC Chair Election (Staff)  
**Recommendation:** Vote in New Chair  
**Written Material:** Commissioner **Murphy** was nominated by Commissioner Katz.  
Motion to approve: Katz  
Second: Dean  
Vote: Ayes: Katz, Wilson, Bradstreet, Kinosian, Dean, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Darling
- 5. Discussion/Action:** Nomination and Possible Election of Vice-Chair  
**Recommendation:** Vote in New Vice-Chair  
**Written Material:** Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Gordon. Commissioner Darling nominated Commissioner Kinosian. Due to parliamentary error, the vote for Vice-Chair will be brought to the next Regular meeting of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission.
- 6. Discussion:** Tsunami After-Action-Report Presentation (Staff)  
**Recommendation:** None  
**Written Material:** AAR & Community Survey Summary  
**Presentation:** PowerPoint  
**Public Comment:**  
0
- ~~**7. Discussion:** Measure FF Budget Allocation Presentation P1 (Staff)  
**Recommendation:** None  
**Written Material:**  
**Presentation:** PowerPoint~~
- 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

**Written Materials:  
Presentation:**

9. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps
  - **CPI/PIG reports**
  - **Planning Update to Safety Element of the General Plan**

**Adjournment: 9:16 pm**

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SECRETARY SIGNATURE

An aerial photograph of Berkeley, California, taken from a high vantage point. The foreground shows the dense residential and institutional buildings of the city. In the middle ground, the city extends towards the waterfront. The background features the San Francisco Bay, with the Golden Gate Bridge visible in the distance. The sun is setting over the water, creating a warm orange and yellow glow across the sky. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing the main title.

General Plan Update **Prepared, Safe, Healthy Berkeley**

March 2025

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission



Agenda

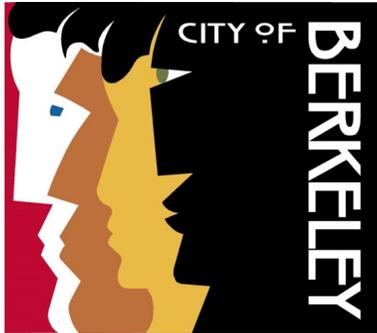
- 1. Project Summary**
- 2. Project Team and Sponsor**
 - a. Outreach and Engagement Strategy
 - b. Community Advisory Committee
- 3. General Plan Update**
 - a. Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element
 - b. Environmental Justice Element
- 4. Equitable Climate Resilience Metrics**
- 5. Related Parallel Planning Efforts**
- 6. Timeline & How to Participate**

Project Summary

- 1 Update the General Plan**
 - Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element
 - Environmental Justice Element
- 2 Create Community-Driven Climate and Resilience Metrics**



Project Team and Sponsor



- **Planning and Development Department**
 - Land Use Planning &
 - Office of Sustainable Development
- **Ecology Center**

- **Civic Makers**
- **Equity First**
- **Fehr & Peers**
- **Safety Training Consultants**

**Funding Support –
Adaptation Planning
Grant Program**

Outreach & Engagement Strategy

Build Authentic Community Relationships

Increase Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusivity

Build Community Power



Community Advisory Committee



The challenge of being of service to the community.

The cross sector collaboration that will hopefully make changes in our city.



The ability to influence how equity is created in Berkeley for communities that have historically been marginalized.

City of Berkeley General Plan

The Berkeley General Plan is a comprehensive and long-range statement of priorities and values developed to guide public decision-making in future years.

All land use approvals and decisions must be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan.

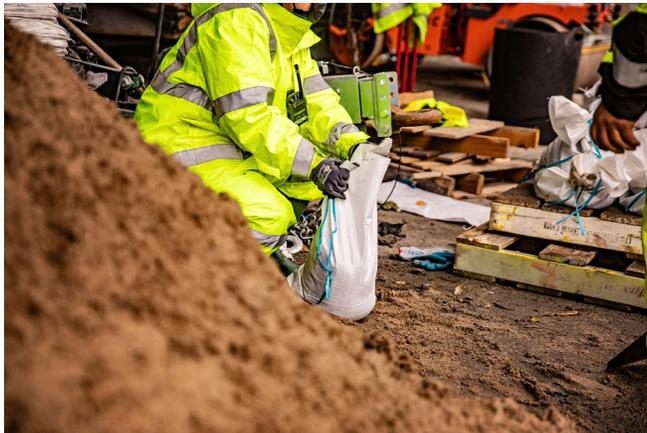
The Berkeley General Plan contains the following “Elements”:

1. Land Use
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. **Disaster Preparedness and Safety** ← Updates
5. Open Space and Recreation
6. Environmental Management
7. Economic Development and Employment
8. Urban Design and Preservation
9. Citizen Participation
10. **Environmental Justice** ← NEW

Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element

Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Objectives

- Reduce risk from natural and human-made hazards
- Support mitigation, emergency preparedness, disaster response, and recovery efforts
- Address climate change adaptation and resilience
- Prioritize vulnerable communities most impacted by climate change



Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update

**Seismic and
Geological
Hazards**

Fire

**Hydrology and
Flooding**

**Human-made
Hazards**

**Emergency
Preparedness and
Response**

Air Quality

Utility Interruption

**Climate Change-
Related**

Evacuation Routes

Environmental Justice Element

What is Environmental Justice?

- “Promote social equity, align with public health, and involve affected communities in the decisions that impact their lives.”
(Planning for Healthy Communities Act (SB 1000, 2016))
- “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”
(Government Code § 65040.12(c)).



[Camila Leão for OBI x Fine Acts](#)

Environmental Justice Element Objectives



Reduce Pollution Exposure



Promote Transparency & Engagement in Public Decision-Making



Promote Physical Activity



Prioritize Improvements and Programs that Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities

Promote Equitable Access to:



Healthy Food



Safe & Sanitary Homes



Public Facilities

New Environmental Justice Element

CalEnviro
Screen



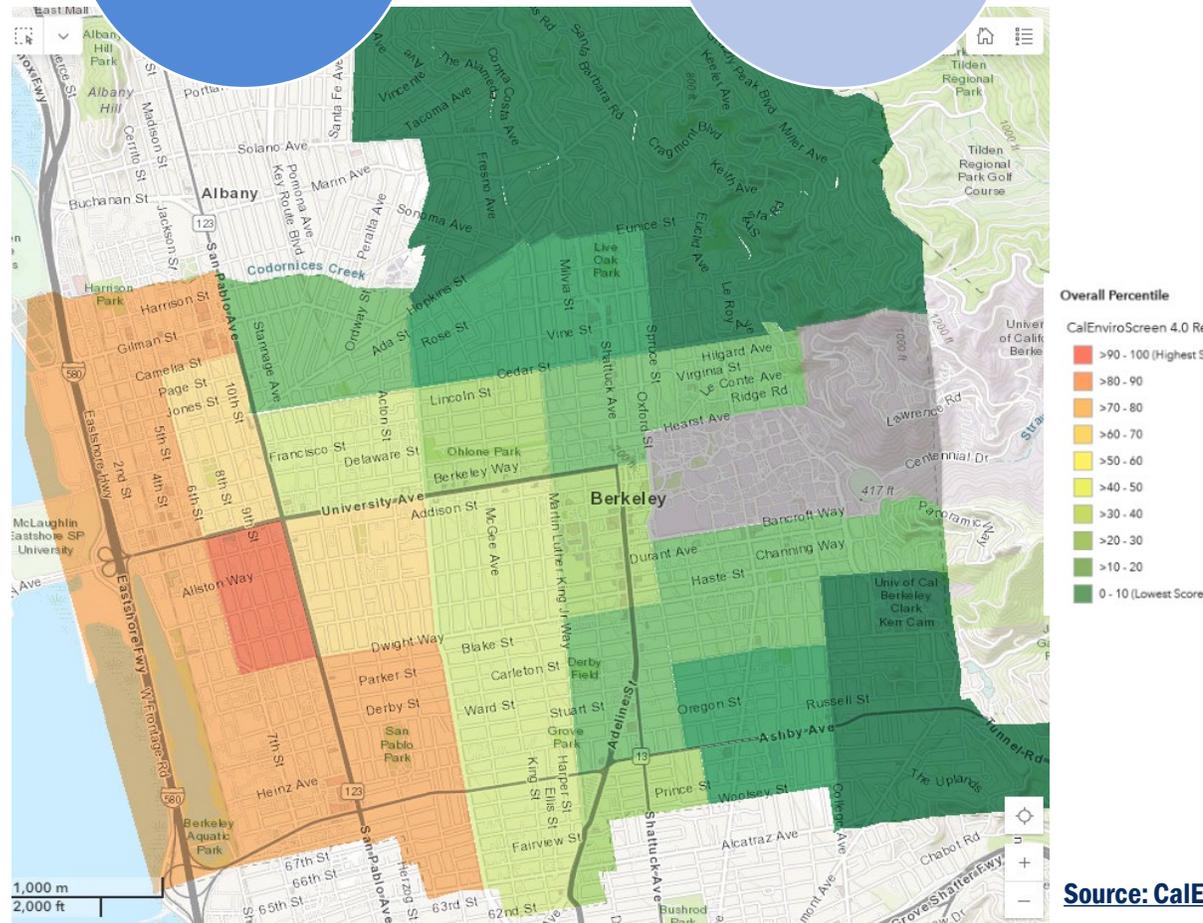
Pollution
Burden &
Income



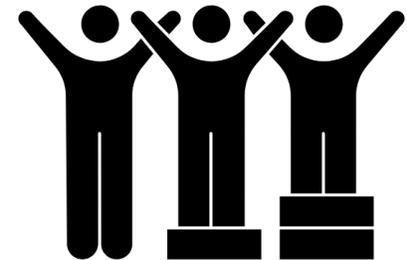
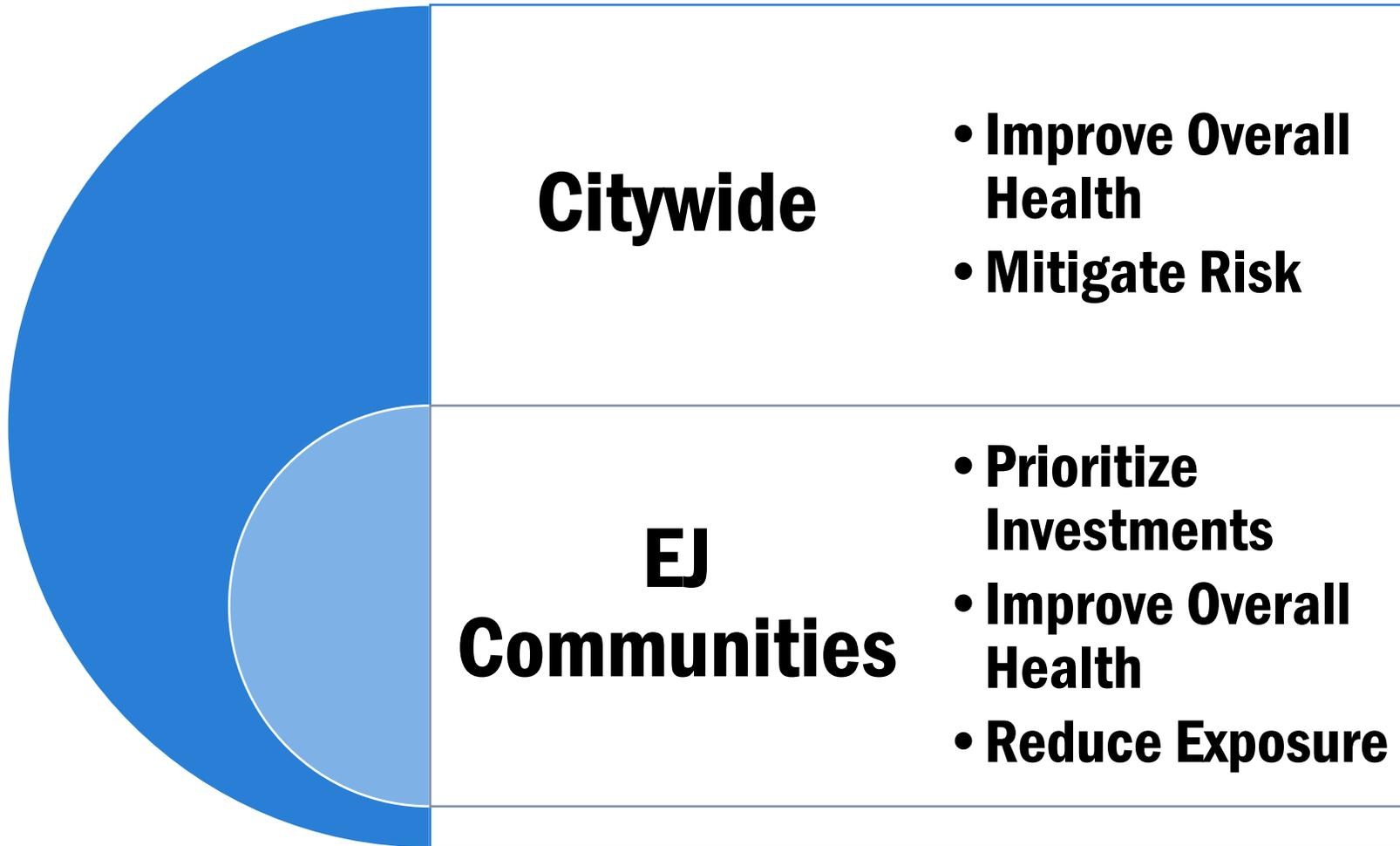
Local Data



EJ
Community



New Environmental Justice Element



Created by claretta
from Noun Project

Equitable Climate Resilience Metrics

The Berkeley Climate Action Plan sets forth a vision of a more sustainable, livable, equitable, and economically vibrant community.

The City uses performance metrics to measure progress toward meeting climate action goals in the Plan.

The Berkeley Climate Action Plan contains strategies across six areas:

- 1. Equity**
- 2. Transportation**
- 3. Buildings**
- 4. Waste**
- 5. Community Outreach & Empowerment**
- 6. Climate Adaptation & Community Resilience**

Equitable Climate Resilience Metrics – Emissions Reduction Goals

2009

**Climate Action Plan
Goal –
80% below 2000
levels by 2050**

2018

**“Fossil Fuel-Free City”
Climate Emergency
Declared
Carbon Neutrality by
2045**

2020

**Council emissions
target –
60.5% below 2018
levels by 2030**

Equitable Climate Resilience Metrics – Current Metrics

Transportation

- % sustainable trips
- % EV adoption
- # of electric chargers

Buildings

- Energy efficiency
- Energy usage from gas combustion

Equity

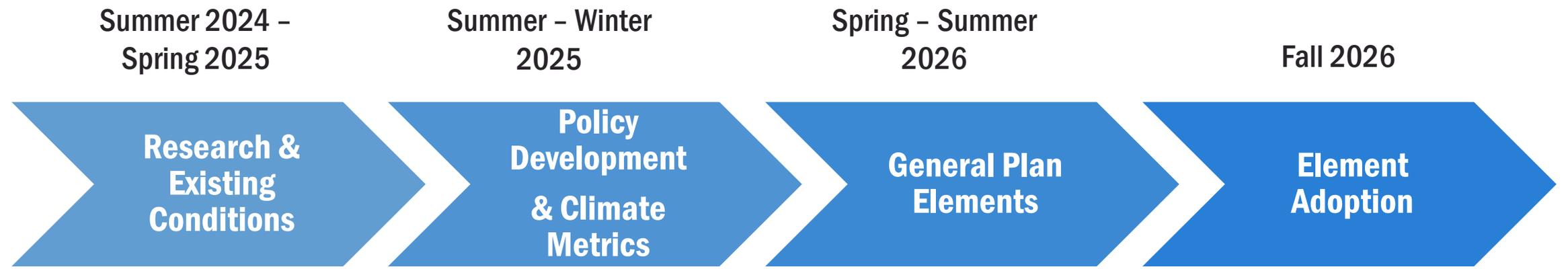
- Prioritizing advancement of equity outcomes into policies and programs

Community Outreach & Engagement

- Achieving equitable climate action together

Project Timeline

← Ongoing Community Engagement →



Related Parallel Planning Efforts

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Office of Emergency Services

Evacuation and Response Time Study, Office of Emergency Services

Community Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan,
Health, Housing and Community Services

Reimagining Public Safety, Police Department and City Manager Office

Watershed Management Plan, Public Works

San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, Land Use Planning

Corridors Upzoning, Land Use Planning

Participate in the planning process!

- **Visit the project webpage and join the email list**
- **Attend community workshops and other engagement events (e.g. surveys, pop-up events)**



**Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley for All
Project Webpage**

<https://berkeleyca.gov/prepared-safe-healthy>

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission

FY25-26 Budget Process

Phase I: Measure FF Structure

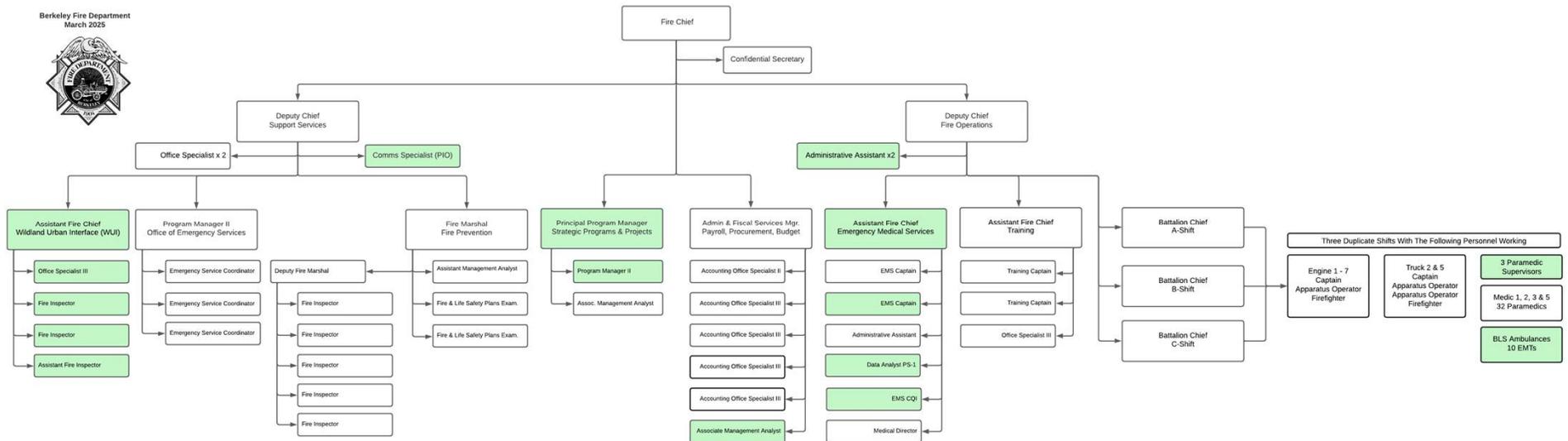
Berkeley Fire Department

March 2025



Measure FF: Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Staffing

Berkeley Fire Department
March 2025



- Budget covers the full salary and benefits for **27** employees at a cost of approx. **\$5.7m**
- Personnel are critical to the expansion of programs, projects and service called for in FF.
- Expect this number of employees for the foreseeable future.

Measure FF: Non-Personnel / Admin

- **Real-Estate:** Paying for consultants helping to move the Fire Headquarters lease and construction project forward.
- **Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting:** Covering on-going costs related to updating the Department's Standard of Coverage and Community Risk Assessment

Division & Project	Total
Administration	\$60,340
Real Estate	\$50,000
Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting	\$10,340

Measure FF: Non-Personnel / EMS

- **BLS Ambulances:** Paying vehicle replacement and maintenance costs.
- **Medical Specialist Team:** Pays for team training and equipment.
- **Contracts, consumables, props:** Pays for EMS equipment, training, external instructors and other related contracts.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Paying vehicle replacement and maintenance costs.

Division & Project	Total
Administration	\$60,340
Real Estate	\$50,000
Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting	\$10,340
EMS	\$277,036
BLS Ambulances	\$128,160
Medical Specialist Team (MST)	\$32,075
Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - EMS)	\$16,801

Measure FF: Non-Personnel / Ops

- **Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (BCs):** Paying vehicle replacement and maintenance costs.

Division & Project	Total
Administration	\$60,340
Real Estate	\$50,000
Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting	\$10,340
EMS	\$277,036
BLS Ambulances	\$128,160
Medical Specialist Team (MST)	\$32,075
Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - EMS)	\$16,801
Operations	\$33,602
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (BCs)	\$33,602

Measure FF: Non-Personnel / MedTx

- **Cover Paramedic Tax Budget Deficit:** Covers the structural deficit for this parcel tax measure, passed in 1997.
- *Note: This deficit was the impetus for a conversation about a parcel tax measure between the Fire Chief and City Manager at the time.*

Division & Project	Total
Administration	\$60,340
Real Estate	\$50,000
Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting	\$10,340
EMS	\$277,036
BLS Ambulances	\$128,160
Medical Specialist Team (MST)	\$32,075
Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - EMS)	\$16,801
Operations	\$33,602
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (BCs)	\$33,602
Paramedic Tax	\$737,718
Cover Paramedic Tax Budget Defecit	\$737,718

Measure FF: Non-Personnel / WUI

- **Outdoor Alerting System:** Paid for the installation of the system and on-going maintenance costs.
- **Safe Passages Program:** Pays for anything that falls under this program including refreshing red curbs, panoramic studies, new signage, etc.
- **Tablet Command:** Pays the annual subscription fee for this software.
- **Vegetation Management Program:** Pays for a variety of contracts, programs and services related to defensible space, citations, chipper, vegetation clearing, etc
- **Public Education:** Pays for all direct mail, media, web presence.
- **Vehicle Purchase & Maintenance:** Paying vehicle replacement and maintenance costs.
- **CWPP:** Paying for on-going consulting help related to this work.
- **Fire Modeling, Specialist Services:** Paying for fire pathway modeling and other specialty consulting services to help reduce wildfire risk and direct city resources.

Division & Project	Total
Administration	\$60,340
Real Estate	\$50,000
Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting	\$10,340
EMS	\$277,036
BLS Ambulances	\$128,160
Medical Specialist Team (MST)	\$32,075
Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - EMS)	\$16,801
Operations	\$33,602
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (BCs)	\$33,602
Paramedic Tax	\$737,718
Cover Paramedic Tax Budget Defecit	\$737,718
WUI	\$1,761,520
Outdoor Alerting System	\$45,703
Safe Passages Program	\$300,000
Tablet Command	\$35,100
Vegetation Management Program	\$1,000,000
Public Education/Marketing	\$103,400
Vehicle Purch & Maintenance (Insp)	\$15,516
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - WUI)	\$16,801
CWPP On-Going Consulting	\$20,000
Fire Modeling, Specialist Services	\$225,000

Measure FF: Non-Personnel / All Div

- **Design/Build HQ & Deployment:** Paying for design, permits, and other related costs associated with this project.
- **HQ/Deployment Lease/Operations:** Partially covering the cost of the lease, utilities and bond payments required to complete construction.

Division & Project	Total
Administration	\$60,340
Real Estate	\$50,000
Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting	\$10,340
EMS	\$277,036
BLS Ambulances	\$128,160
Medical Specialist Team (MST)	\$32,075
Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - EMS)	\$16,801
Operations	\$33,602
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (BCs)	\$33,602
Paramedic Tax	\$737,718
Cover Paramedic Tax Budget Defecit	\$737,718
WUI	\$1,761,520
Outdoor Alerting System	\$45,703
Safe Passages Program	\$300,000
Tablet Command	\$35,100
Vegetation Management Program	\$1,000,000
Public Education/Marketing	\$103,400
Vehicle Purch & Maintenance (Insp)	\$15,516
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - WUI)	\$16,801
CWPP On-Going Consulting	\$20,000
Fire Modeling, Specialist Services	\$225,000
All Divisions	\$1,025,000
Design/Build HQ & Deployment	\$125,000
HQ/Deployment Lease/Operations	\$900,000

Measure FF: Non-Personnel / Trng.

- **Contracts, Consumables, Props:** Pays for a variety of contracts, equipment, materials and overtime that are required to provide training to personnel.

Division & Project	Total
Administration	\$60,340
Real Estate	\$50,000
Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting	\$10,340
EMS	\$277,036
BLS Ambulances	\$128,160
Medical Specialist Team (MST)	\$32,075
Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - EMS)	\$16,801
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Outdoor Alerting System	\$45,703
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Tablet Command	\$35,100
Vegetation Management Program	\$1,000,000
Public Education/Marketing	\$103,400
Vehicle Purch & Maintenance (Insp)	\$15,516
Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - WUI)	\$16,801
CWPP On-Going Consulting	\$20,000
Fire Modeling, Specialist Services	\$225,000
All Divisions	\$1,025,000
Design/Build HQ & Deployment	\$125,000
HQ/Deployment Lease/Operations	\$900,000
Training & Recruitment	\$100,000
Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
Grand Total	\$3,995,215



FY25 Work Plan

As presented to the DFSC in
October 2024

Priority Projects

Wildland Division

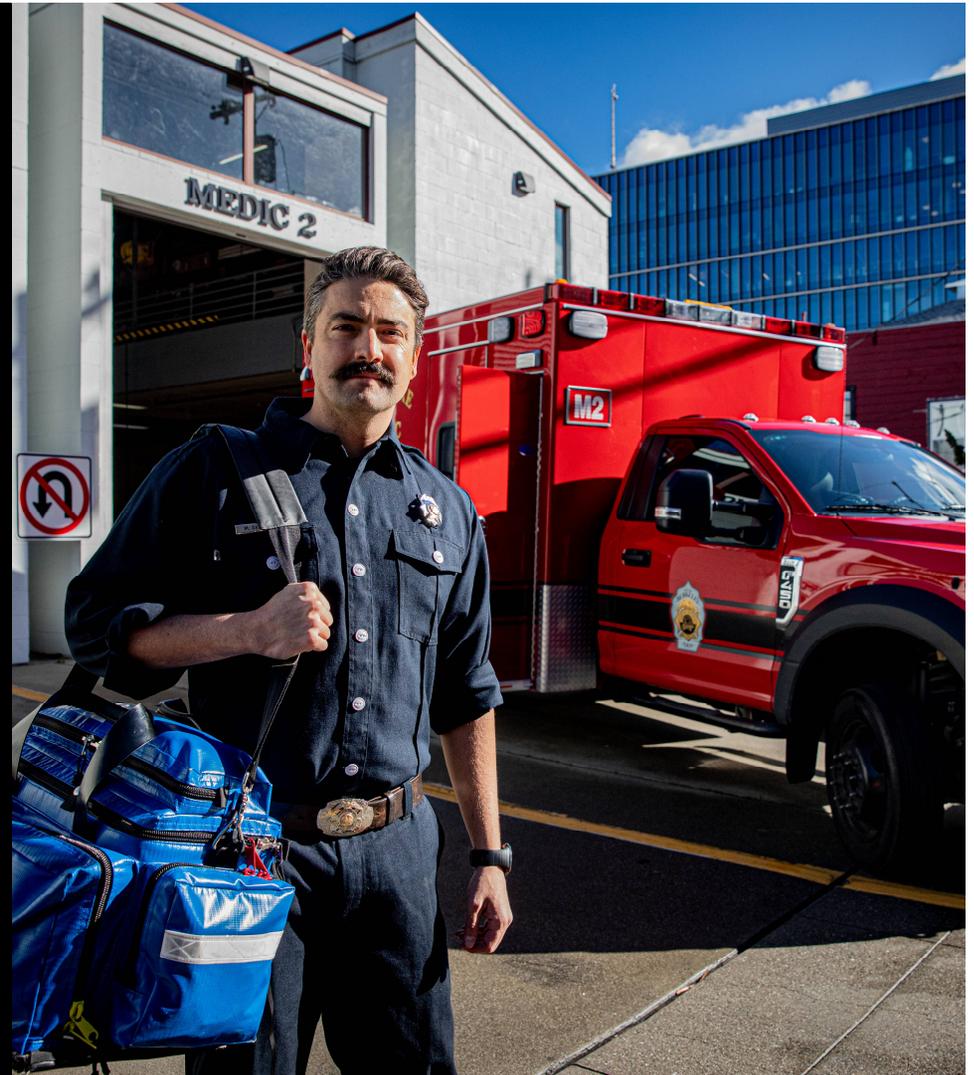
- Citation Process Refinement
- Resident Assistance Program Scale Up
 - Defensible Space / Zone 0
 - Eucalyptus Understory Clean up
 - Home Hardening
- Standing Up Property Transfer Tax Rebate Program
 - CDI Safer from Wildfire
- Analyzing Pathways / Strategic Focus
 - Zone 0
 - Home Hardening
- Panoramic / Zone 3 Secondary Evacuation Road



Priority Projects

Operations Division

- Firehouse Ring Down Emergency Procurement
- Strengthen Regional Partnerships
- Highrise Operations
 - Training & Education
 - Equipment
 - Weight of response
 - Staffing
- Supervisor Academy
- Emergency Medical Services
 - Ambulance transition program
 - Deployment center
 - Recruitment and deployment of EMTs
 - Dispatch Needs Analysis
 - Pilot alternative response model



Priority Projects

Office of Emergency Services

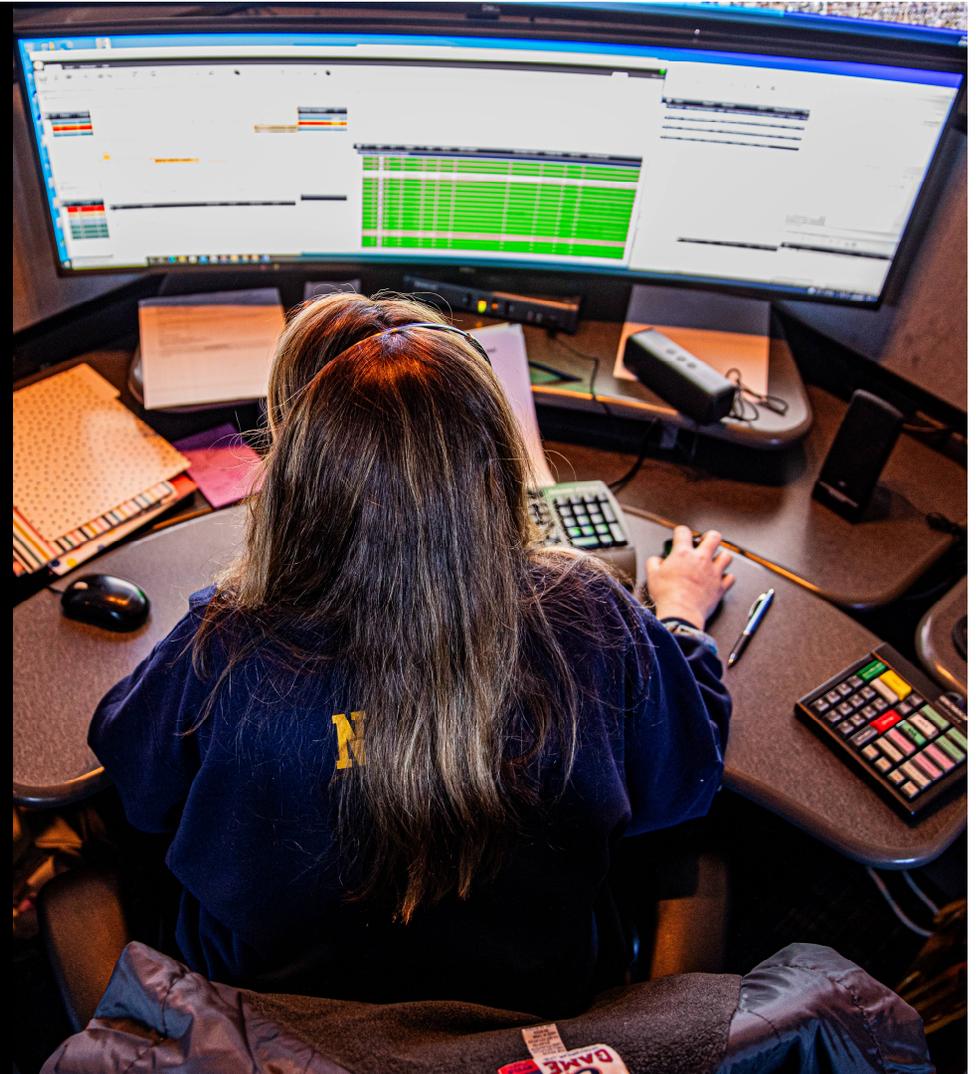
- Planning and training staff to activate the Emergency Operations Center and disaster shelters to support the community during disasters (GG)
- Updating protocols, staff training, and community outreach for AC Alert, the Berkeley Emergency Map, and the Outdoor Warning System (FF/GG)
- Finalizing the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and using content in new community disaster trainings (GG)
- Coordinating responder and community readiness for Extreme Fire Weather (GG)
- Reworking community disaster education offerings to reach more Berkeleyans (GG)
- Better understanding challenges and risks of emergency movement through Berkeley with the Evacuation & Response Time Study (FF/GG)



Priority Projects

Office of the Chief

- Leading on Wildfire Initiatives
 - Strategic Home Hardening
 - Property Transfer Tax Rebate
- Fire Facilities Acute / Long-Term
 - Headquarters
 - Ambulance Deployment Center
 - Regional Training Center
 - Fire Station Remodel/Rebuilds
 - Dispatch Re-Design
- Strategic Programs & Partnerships
 - Street Trauma Prevention Program
 - Grant Management
 - Dispatch / call triage / call diversion
- Improve Data Analytics



FY25 Salary & Benefits			FY25 Overtime		FY25 Non-Personnel	
Row Labels	Sum of # Positions	Total	Division & Job Classification	Total	Division & Project	Total
Admin	5	\$1,062,205	Dispatch	50,317	Administration	\$60,340
Administrative Assistant	2	\$318,498	Dispatcher Training	50,317	Real Estate	\$50,000
AMA	1	\$207,354	Operations	186,260	Coverage & Deployment Analysis/Reporting	\$10,340
Comms Specialist/PIO	1	\$208,581	HazMat Training	124,173	EMS	\$277,036
Principal Prg Mgr	1	\$327,773	Technical Rescue Training	62,087	BLS Ambulances	\$128,160
Dispatch	1	\$291,330	Grand Total	236,577	Medical Specialist Team (MST)	\$32,075
CQI Nurse	1	\$291,330			Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
EMS	16	\$3,184,793			Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - EMS)	\$16,801
EMT	10	\$1,282,494			Operations	\$33,602
Firefighter	3	\$802,318			Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (BCs)	\$33,602
Captain	1	\$336,387			Paramedic Tax	\$737,718
Assisatnt Fire Chief	1	\$439,838			Cover Paramedic Tax Budget Defecit	\$737,718
Paramedic Supervisor I	1	\$323,755			WUI	\$1,761,520
WUI	5	\$1,465,794			Outdoor Alerting System	\$45,703
OSIII	1	\$146,874			Safe Passages Program	\$300,000
Sworn Fire Inspector	3	\$879,676			Tablet Command	\$35,100
Assisatnt Fire Chief	1	\$439,244			Vegetation Management Program	\$1,000,000
Grand Total	27	\$6,004,121	Total Projected Revenue	\$9,900,000	Public Education/Marketing	\$103,400
			Total Projected Expenditure	\$9,857,823	Vehicle Purch & Maintenance (Insp)	\$15,516
			Delta	\$42,177	Vehicle Maintenance/Replacement (AC - WUI)	\$16,801
					CWPP On-Going Consulting	\$20,000
					Fire Modeling, Specialist Services	\$225,000
					All Divisions	\$1,025,000
					Design/Build HQ & Deployment	\$125,000
					HQ/Deployment Lease/Operations	\$900,000
					Training & Recruitment	\$100,000
					Contracts, Consumables, Props	\$100,000
					Grand Total	\$3,995,215

Next Steps:

- Expenditure plans for how tax proceeds will be spent will be provided to the DFSC ahead of the April 2025 meeting – no major changes in allocation of funds anticipated from FY24-25.
 - *Note: Consolidation of focus to Grizzly Peak MZ if EMBER is approved by Council.*

Questions & Discussion





[] CALENDAR
Date

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: Greg Murphy, Chairperson
Subject: Remove pre-transfer eligibility restriction of the transfer tax rebate for wildfire hardening

RECOMMENDATION

Remove the 1 year pre-transfer eligibility restriction of the transfer tax rebate for wildfire hardening from BMC 7.52.060, to encourage early mitigation efforts.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Increased utilization of the transfer tax exemption. Reduced risk of significant costs due to wildfire disaster.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley has responded to wildfire risk with a variety of mitigation measures to improve prevention. One type of mitigation measure to reduce risk is through home “hardening” which is the process of increasing resistance to wildfire by replacing combustible materials with ignition resistant and/or non-combustible materials and other scientifically proven actions including:

- Reducing the home’s vulnerability to heat.
- Creating fire-resistant surfaces
- Blocking any potential points of ingress for embers and other flammable material.

Retrofitting our homes against seismic damage and destruction has proven to be good policy; hardening against wildfire will be as well.

On September 10, 2024, the council approved the first reading of the Ordinance amending BMC 7.52.060 to include “Wildfire Hardening” in the Real Property Transfer Tax Exceptions. While this encourages homeowners to implement wildfire hardening at the time of sale, the limitation of eligibility to projects undertaken within a year prior to the time of transfer discourages early action, and, to the extent that such measures could be required within Fire Zone 4 as part of EMBER or a future program, dampens the ability to require the recommended measures without imposing hardship. It appears that this was an unintended consequence of the original action.

Therefore, the Commission recommends that the City Council amend Berkeley Municipal Code 7.50.060.L.3 to strike the words “up to one-year” from the current ordinance. The Commission notes that the existing rebate program for seismic upgrades does not have a one year restriction prior to sale. While the point of sale is often an important opportunity for home renovations, the recent adoption of this ordinance with a one year prior to sale restriction could have the unintended consequence of discouraging homeowners from making wildfire hardening improvements early. Project delivery and property transfer dates are also subject to delay, which contributes to uncertainty, thereby discouraging action without this correction. Possible concerns to address permanence and verification should be studied over the next few years to integrate appropriate documentation filing requirements and/or re-inspection.

The inherent wildfire risk Berkeley faces because of the natural topography and weather conditions is increasing due to climate change which is bringing more frequent and substantial draughts, and higher temperatures. The City of Berkeley has and will continue to implement strategies that reduce the wildfire risk to our community, and should a wildfire occur, improve the emergency response. However, the City is able to address only part of the wildfire risk that the community faces as much of the risk within the City proper lies on private property in the form of structures that pre-date modern fire resistive building codes. While some of the retrofit work that must occur is inexpensive, much of it is expensive and requires professionals. Thus, there is a significant challenge to getting this work completed, even for motivated residents. There is a need to be nimble and adapt our legislation to incentivize the work we know has to get done, work that will help slow an advancing fire so firefighters can protect the community. This amendment will provide an opportunity and mechanism for the City to incentivize homeowners in making these improvements.

Action: M/S/C (Mover/Seconder) Motion to approve the Commission recommendation ().

Votes: Ayes – ; Noes – ; Abstain – ; Absent – .

BACKGROUND

Maintaining our housing stock is essential to the health and welfare of our city. The impacts from a wildfire are not just seen in the structures; it has devastating consequences on mental health, individual sense of security, and our financial stability as a community. The Loma Prieta Earthquake took the Bay Area by surprise on October 17, 1989. According to the California Department of Conservation, that 6.9 magnitude earthquake killed 63 people, injured close to 4,000 and displaced over 12,000 people. Less than two years later, June 25, 1991, Berkeley City Council voted for an exception

on transfer property taxes to help homeowners pay for seismically upgrading their homes, and BMC 7.52.060, Sub-section K was established. In the last 10 years, the Finance Department processed approximately 1,200 seismic upgrade rebates for a total of \$7.2M. Since the seismic retrofit exception was included in BMC 7.52.060 in 1991 no expanded safety exceptions have been added. The City of Berkeley is in one of the highest wildfire risk areas in the state. We have a long history of catastrophic wildfire here in Berkeley.

Most notably, in 1923, when a wildfire destroyed more than 600 homes, leaving more than 1,000 residents homeless. In 1991, the Berkeley/Oakland Tunnel Fire was responsible for 25 deaths and destroyed more than 3,000 homes. In 2024 valuation, that conflagration cost 4 billion dollars. Now is the time to improve and adapt policies, and help residents harden their homes against wildfire. Fire science studies are decisive. Wildfire hardening reduces the chances of a home catching fire.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

- The Commission previously evaluated requiring that some investment to harden against wildfire while making major renovations and / or additions to the property will comply owners to undertake these important upgrades and reduce our vulnerability to destruction and damage as a result of a wildfire. This approach was found to be difficult for the Building Department to implement in a broader area, indicating that incentive approaches are important until staff can develop more experience after implementation of these aspects of the EMBER program within Fire Zone 4.
- The Commission considered recommending that pre-transfer rebate value be indexed to inflation, so homeowners not planning to transfer property ownership in the near term retain the real value of the incentive. The Commission did not recommend this feature at this time based on the Council declining to adopt a similar, although higher inflation adjustment for the rebate of home energy efficiency deposits. This feature could be considered in the future after further review.
- The Commission initially considered limiting the wildfire hardening incentive to Fire Zones 2 and 3, prior to the Council's direction to establish a new Fire Zone 4. The City Council did not limit eligibility in its September 10, 2024 action, so this recommendation does not modify this scope of the program.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. [OR] Refer to the budget process.

CONTACT PERSON

Keith May, Commission Secretary, Deputy Fire Chief, (510) 510-981-_____

Remove pre-transfer eligibility restriction of the transfer tax rebate for wildfire hardening
CALENDAR

Attachments:

1: Ordinance Amending Sections of 7.52.060 of the BMC

ORDINANCE NO. ##### -N.S.

AMENDING SECTIONS 7.52.060 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE
BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Berkeley Municipal Code 7.52.060, Real Property Transfer Tax Exceptions, Sub-section L, is amended to read as follows:

BMC 7.52.60 Sub-section L

L. 1. Up to one-third of the tax imposed by this chapter shall be rebated, on a dollar for dollar basis, for all expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2025 to "wildfire harden" either any structure which is used exclusively for residential purposes, or any mixed-use structure which contains two or more dwelling units. Multiple rebate applications may be submitted for a partial rebate of the tax paid. However, the total rebate for any combination of seismic retrofit and/or wildfire hardening shall not exceed the maximum of one-third (1/3) of the tax paid per property.

2. The term "wildfire harden" within the meaning of this chapter means work which is the process of increasing resistance to wildfire by replacing combustible materials with ignition resistant and/or non-combustible materials and other scientifically proven actions. The work must be permanent and not vegetation management or gardening adaptations that require continued maintenance. To be eligible for a rebate, the parcel level mitigations set forth in the California Department of Insurance "Safer from Wildfires" Framework REG-2020-00015 adopting California Code of Regulations Title 10, Chapter 5, Subchapter 4.8, Article 4, Section 2644.9 must be satisfactorily completed as determined by the Building Official (when a permit is required) and a Berkeley Fire Department Defensible Space Inspection. These include:

- (a) All improvements must be permanent and comply with design, material and construction methods as described in the California Building Code, Chapter 7A. and BMC 19.28.030.
- (b) Structures with a wood shake roof must be replaced with a Class A fire rated roof before qualifying for the transfer tax rebate.
- (c) Clearing combustible materials including fences and gates, and all movable combustible objects, from the area within five (5) feet of the building being evaluated (Replace with only noncombustible materials.).
- (d) At least six (6) inches of noncombustible vertical clearance at the bottom of the exterior surface of the building, measured from the ground up.

(e) Fire-Resistant Vents and Gutter Covers of 1/16 to 1/8 inch noncombustible, corrosion-resistant metal mesh or OSFM Category 8165 approved ember resistant vents.

(f) Multi-paned windows, including dual pane windows, or functional shutters, which when closed, cover the entire window and do not have openings. (g) Enclosed eaves.

(h) Remove combustible materials and debris from under decks and installation of non-combustible siding or ember resistant mesh of 1/8" or finer around deck perimeter.

(i) Removal or absence of combustible structures, including sheds and other outbuildings, from the area within thirty (30) feet of the building being evaluated or, in the event that the applicant does not control the entirety of the area extending thirty feet from the building being evaluated, removal of combustible structures from as much of such area as is under the control of the applicant.

(j) Block spaces between roof covering and sheathing with noncombustible materials (bird stops).

(k) The property upon which the building being evaluated is situated complies with Section 4291 of the Public Resources Code, when applicable, and any applicable local ordinances, governing defensible space.

(l) Any other work found by the Building Official or Fire Marshal (or their designee) to substantially increase the capability of those structures, specified in subsection L.1, to withstand destruction or damage in the event of a wildfire.

3. The work to wildfire harden as provided herein shall be completed either ~~up to one year~~ prior to the transfer of property or as provided in subsection L.5.

4. If the work to wildfire harden structures and property provided for herein is to be performed after the transfer of property which is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, upon completion of such work and certification by the building official as to the amount of the expenses of such work the City Manager or their designee may refund such expenses not to exceed one-third of the tax imposed to the parties to the sale in accordance with the terms of such sale. Any remaining tax shall be retained by the City.

5. From the date of the recordation of the transfer document, the applicant shall have one year to complete all wildfire hardening work and submit a wildfire hardening verification application to the Codes and Inspection Division of the City of Berkeley. If the work is not completed at the end of one year, that portion which has

been completed may be credited as a rebate to the applicant upon submission of a Home Hardening verification application and substantiating documentation, as required by the codes and inspections division of the City of Berkeley, showing the dollar amount of work completed up to that date.

6. Within the one-year period established by paragraph 5, an applicant may request, and the City Manager may approve, an extension of up to one year. The City Manager or their designee may grant such an extension only for good cause. The decision of the City Manager or their designee shall be entirely within their discretion and shall be final.

(a) "Good cause" includes (i) the inability of the applicant, after a prompt and diligent search to find and retain the services of an architect, engineer, contractor or other service provider whose services are necessary for the Home Hardening work; (ii) unforeseen and unforeseeable circumstances such as a significant change in the scope of the Wildfire Hardening work due to circumstances in the field which could not reasonably have been known earlier; and (iii) serious illness or other extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances that prevented the timely commencement or completion of the Wildfire Hardening work.

(b) "Good cause" does not include (i) ignorance of the applicable City ordinances or regulations concerning the Wildfire Hardening rebate provided in this chapter or state or local laws relating to the standards with which wildfire hardening work must comply; or (ii) any delays which were within the control or responsibility of the applicant.

Section 2. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

WORK PLAN – FY 2023-2024

Mission Statement

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission serves as the public oversight body for Berkeley’s Measure GG and Measure FF funds, charged with reviewing the budget on a regular basis to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the intent of the voter approved measures, recommending the appropriate annual increase to the tax rate, and recommending new programs and policy positions requiring Measure GG and Measure FF funding. The ultimate goal of the Commission is to increase community safety, resilience, and education for community disaster preparedness. The Commission also reviews and makes recommendations on items referred by the City Council or other Commissions.

Summary of FY 2023-2024 Work Plan Activities

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Expected Outcomes</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>
1. Plan & Budget Oversight <i>BFD Staff</i> Contact: D. Sprague/ K. May	a) Review BFD materials on a quarterly basis b) Meet monthly as Finance ad hoc working group with FD to review monthly materials c) Track financial issues related to FF & GG with the City Council	a) Budget development plan b) Provide input of quarterly budget c) Provide annual budget recommendation City Council on FF & GG d) Provide recommendation to City Council on annual GG increases e) Provide City Council recommendation for midyear program corrections (ad hoc)	Rotating group of commissioners (based on availability) on a quarterly basis hosted by Chair / Chief
2. Home hardening <i>BFD Staff</i> Contact: C. Arnold	a) Lead review of monthly inspection report b) Review sessions with Fire Marshal c) Listening sessions with Building Department	a) Provide recommendation to City Council on annual inspection program targets b) Provide recommendation to City Council on building code modifications for fire safety (ad hoc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Murphy • W. Bradstreet • S. Dean
3. Wildland-urban interface <i>BFD Staff</i> Contact: C. Arnold	a) Review vegetation management program b) Discuss grant applications and planned project allocations	a) Provide recommendation to City Council on vegetation management program b) Knowledge of grant funding distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Gordon • Open • A. Katz • T. Darling

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Expected Outcomes</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>
4. Safe passages BFD Staff Contact: C. Arnold / S. Lana	a) Review previous safe passages program and its component parts (parking restrictions, red curb, notification alerts, evacuation planning) b) Meet with community members for intake c) Absorb CWPP report	a) Restart of Safe Passages Program b) Formation of team/committee to develop plan c) Provide recommendation to City Council on draft revised Safe Passages program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>T. Gordon</u> • M. Wilson • T. Darling
5. Community Outreach BFD Staff Contact: S. Lana/ D. Dailey	a) Work with FD on educating the public on disaster and fire safety programs b) Coordinate / alert commission of potential outlets for information c) Follow / facilitate / support meetings with community groups d) Follow to conclusion external emergency speaker system e) Track Commission recommendations / status	a) Provide recommendation to City Council on mid-program changes to current communications plan b) Provide City Council recommendation into annual communications plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Open</u> • G. Murphy • W. Bradstreet