

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday March 23, 2022

Present: Jose Luis Bedolla, Shirley Dean, Weldon Bradstreet, Nancy Rader, Tobias Simmons, Kim-Mai Cutler,

Absent: Paul Degenkolb (Excused), Toni Stein

Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May

Public: Attendees 22: Andy Peterson, Edelweiss Chin, Jan Eberstein, Jim Fischer, Marcus von Engel, Nancy Gillette, 15102697022, Benay Dara-Adams, jmcbride, max ventura, Masako Ijuin, Isis Feral, Cynthia Chen, Kathleen Kelly, Richard Norgaard, Holly Singh, 5104829494, Annie Johnson, Michelle W, Annie Johnson,

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

J. Bedolla called meeting to order at 7:03pm

Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Max Ventura, founder of East Bay Pesticide Alert, January of 2005, began working on deforestation and pesticide issues in the hills. Pesticiding happens for up to 10 years after every cut. UC has driven pesticide use and it is a fire hazard. Eucalyptus trees have served as a fire break as in the 1991 fire. We went up against Measure FF and opposition was lost in propaganda. Commissioners should go to eastbaypesticidealert.org, look at the wildfire page.

Kelly Hammargren – how many people are in attendance tonight? 22.

Henry Denero said that eucalyptus are not a fire break species.

1. Fire Department Staff Report

DFSC Staff Report

March 23rd, 2022

1. Measure FF Monthly Report
 - a. Budget Overview – Stacie Clarke/Chief Roman
 - i. Program Review
 1. **Standards of Coverage Analysis** – The Department is undergoing an in-depth analysis of fixed and mobile resources to determine the best deployment model and to ensure the Department is responding effectively and efficiently.
 - Status: The contractor was provided a large amount of data in January of 2022. Preliminary results indicate that Department resources are being worked above the national standard. There is room for improvement on call processing time and that response times are beyond the established national standard. A more in-depth presentation will be provided to the City Council work session on April 19th?
 - Expected Completion: June 2022.
 2. **Project Management and Subject Matter Expert (SME)** – Through this contract, the Department has relied on a team of professionals that have varied background including in project management, information technology, videography, marketing and industry specialists that have specific skills in emergency medical service and training.
 - a. Status: The PMT is has been working to support the Departments NOI for the HMBP grant, helping to develop a recruiting/marketing plan for EMTs and Paramedics and performing a variety of other staff/support work.
 3. **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** – The CWPP is a comprehensive risk analysis that addresses local target hazards and includes a community-based action plan to mitigate threats, promote preparedness activities, and ensure resiliency. It will serve as the foundation and roadmap for the Departments work to prevent wildfire and limit the spread when they ignite.
 - a. Update: The contract is almost complete and the project will commence in April.
 - b. Completion is expected around November 2022
 4. **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** – See chart below.
 5. **Retired Annuitants** – The retired annuitants are largely focused on performing vegetation inspections for properties in fire zone 2 and 3. They are also looking at transitioning the inspection from paper to mobile technology, re-tooling the re-inspection, citation, and violation process. The Department has also expanded its traditional hazardous fire area program to include all properties in fire zones 2 and 3.

- Update: Last month we had some challenges with CalPERS which caused us to temporarily suspend the RA program. This resulted in no new inspections to report. We have resolved those issues and all 14 inspectors are back at work as of March 14th.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic Recruitment – Single Function Job Classifications & Recruitment:

- a. The Division has worked collaboratively with Local 1227 and Human Resources to draft single function EMT and Paramedic Job Classifications which were approved with elation at the December Personnel Board meeting and were approved by the City Council on January 18th, 2022.

Update: The recruitment campaign and on-boarding program is being developed. The Department is working through several remaining administrative processes before it can begin to recruit and hire for these jobs.

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.

Update: The planning process has begun with a team comprised of members from the Fire Department, Public Works, and key external experts in fire station and fire training center design. There is a significant meeting scheduled for March 1st where the ball will really get rolling.

Expected Completion: September 2022

Employee Physicals & Human Performance: First responders' suffer higher rates of chronic medical and psychological injury and illness than the general population. These issues are often directly correlated to shift work, traumatic experiences and stress, and exposure to carcinogens. Wellness programs have reduced healthcare and workers compensation costs associated with injuries and illness. Additionally, responders that are healthy (medically and psychiatrically) are more resilient, make better decisions and are more likely to be at work.

Update: After a multi-year solicitation process, two Contractors have been selected that will provide services that include but are not limited to, annual physical examinations, screening for cancer and other chronic diseases associated with the work, one-on-one consultations, managing wellness/fitness initiatives, coordinating awareness and motivational campaigns,

mental and health related training, long-term data collection and analysis, and educational seminars. We will have one full time on site Human Performance Coach that will be likely starting by May of this year.

Dispatch Study: Our goal, per Council direction is to enhance the dispatch center so it can triage calls, divert non-emergency calls (including mental health calls) to appropriate resources like the SCU; and provide emergency medical instructions to callers.

Status: A consultant, Federal Engineering, started work on Phase 1 on January 20th, 2022. Their work will result in a comprehensive plan that we can use to guide the physical (facility) enhancements, adjustments to staffing and training in dispatch over the next 36 months.

Expected Completion of Phase 1: September 2022

6. Recruitments:

a. Shift Fire Inspector Recruitment –These are filled by existing fire department personnel and are used to assist with fire investigations and other inspection related activities in the built environment.

i. Update: Interviews have been completed and six members will begin this three-year assignment on May 1st, 2022.

b. Sworn Fire Inspector Recruitment – Recruitment is on-going.

i. Update: Staff has promoted one non-sworn inspector to a sworn position. Three external offers have been accepted and expected to start the first week of April.

7. **Division of Training Property** – The Department is actively engaged to find a piece of property that will meet the City’s needs for the training and development of its emergency responders and support staff. Due to zoning, the cost of property and the proximity of residential units to most property in Berkeley, this location will likely be outside the City proper. This presents exciting opportunities for regional collaboration with other fire departments and a community college district.

a. Update: Several potential properties have been identified, Phase I environmental reviews have been performed, and staff is working to determine the best option available.

ii. Implementation & Metrics

1. **Outdoor Warning System** – We are diligently working through the permitting process with the City of Berkeley and the vendor. BUSD MOU has been signed by BUSD and is in the final steps with the City of Berkeley before being completely executed.

2. The first five units have been ordered

iii. RFP Updates

b. Program Specific Reports

i. Defensible Space Inspection Updates

Vegetation Management Inspections – Annuitants

2. Measure GG Monthly Report – Stacie Clarke/Chief Roman
 - a. Emergency Services Coordinator Position
 - i. Recruitment is in process and will close on April 4, 2022.
 - b. Budget Overview
 - i. RFP Updates – No new updates.
3. Department Activities
 - a. Grants – The Fire Department has pulled out of the CAL OES grant process. Competing priorities, disqualifying events, costs and disproportionate commitment of staff time needed for grant application and performance make applying for this grant during the current cycle unfeasible. The fire department is committed in continuing the pursuit of grant funding opportunities in the future.

However, we have an opportunity to join the “Fire Risk Reduction Communities List” through the Diablo Fire Safe Council. This will make Berkeley homeowners eligible for vegetation management grants through Hillside Emergency Forum (HEF). HEF has already completed the State environmental reviews and do not have to wait for federal reviews.

4. Safe Passage
 - Update: We have been working with Transportation and Traffic to repaint existing red curbs and replacing “no parking signs” that have faded as well as painting red in front of hydrants.
5. Laguna Beach Update: “Only great things to report using Genasys to facilitate alert and notifications during our evacuations today. We quickly identified the 3 speaker locations in the evacuation zone and were able to send the pre-recorded Evacuation Order alert. Residents, City Council, City Leadership, and the Media all reported positive things on the use of our Outdoor Warning System.”

Emerald Fire

On February 10, 2022 Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Laguna Beach Fire responded for a report of a wildland fire at 4:10 AM. Multiple Companies responded (Within OCFA and local Fire Departments) • Helicopters • Hand Crews • Water Tenders • Command Officers • Additional Requests • LA County Helicopters/Fixed Wing Aircraft • More Firefighters • Incident Management Team.

Evacuation orders included Irvine Cove Residents, Emerald Bay Residents.

Evacuation Warnings were given to North Laguna Beach Residents and Highway 1 was closed to traffic.

- Fire was active for 4 days
- 1,876 Structure were in Mandatory Evacuation Zones
- 698 Structures were in Evacuation Warning Zones

New Wildfire Mitigation Tools Used in Response:

- New Heli pod Refueling Station

- New Outdoor Warning System
- New Real-Time ArcGIS Evacuation Map

6. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
February 13, 2022– March 16, 2022		
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	34	
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	7	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	4	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	837	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	32	
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)	104	
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	97	
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	172	
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	0	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	1	

TOTAL	1,288	
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Unit Utilization	Apparatus Count	2,828
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7. Commission Actions Status

9/22/2021	Enforcement of Existing Parking Rules and Regulations	Heard at 3/7 Public safety Committee		Staff Review for Response; Police, Public Works - in Agenda Process for 3/8 City Council Meeting ; referred to Public Safety Policy Committee
9/22/2021	Long Range Development Plan for UC Berkeley			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department - in Agenda Process for 4/12 City Council Meeting.
10/27/2021	Recommendation to identify High Risk Areas that are exempt from State Imposed Housing Increases Due to Public Safety Considerations	City Council 3/22/22 Agenda	Item 24	
12/1/2021	Measure FF Oversight Recommendation- revised			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department
2/23/2022	Request for Timely Fiscal Information on Measures FF and GG			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of February 23, 2022*

Motion to approve the minutes as revised: Dean

Second: Rader

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler, Simmons; 0 Noes; 2 Absent:

Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Abstain:

Action Items

3. Rescheduling the Regular Meeting Scheduled for April 27, 2022 to Another Date in April (Bedolla)

Motion to move the April 27 Regular Meeting of the Commission to April 13, 2022:

Bedolla

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler, Simmons; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Abstain:

Discussion Items

4. Commission Workplan (Bedolla)*
5. Measure GG and FF report (Staff)*
6. Presentation on Fire Hazard of Eucalyptus, Costs, and Monarch Butterflies by Professor Joe McBride (Rader)*
7. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Core Group Commission Designation Process (Bedolla)

K. Cutler left the meeting at 9:09pm

8. Discussion of Proposed Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program & Budget for FY 23-24 Budget* (Rader)
9. FEMA Grants Updates (Bedolla)
10. Discussion of Parking Enforcement Budget Item* (Rader)
11. Outdoor Warning System update/Laguna Beach System (Dean, Bedolla)
12. Process for notifying the Commission of Reports Status (Dean)
13. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps
 - a. Measure GG Tax Rate Increase

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Dean

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Abstain:

Adjourned at 9:50p