



East Bay Hills Wildfire Prevention & Coordination

A grassroots advocacy effort to create a formalized agreement to reduce wildfire threat throughout the East Bay



Photo credit: Julia Sumangil Photography

Meeting Agenda

June 28, 2023

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Presentation**
- 3. Question & Answer**
- 4. Next Steps**

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Guiding Principles for a Regional Approach to Wildfire Prevention

Increasing Threats

In the face of increasing threats from wildfire, it is time for a new, more effective, regional approach to keep residents safe.

Regional Issue

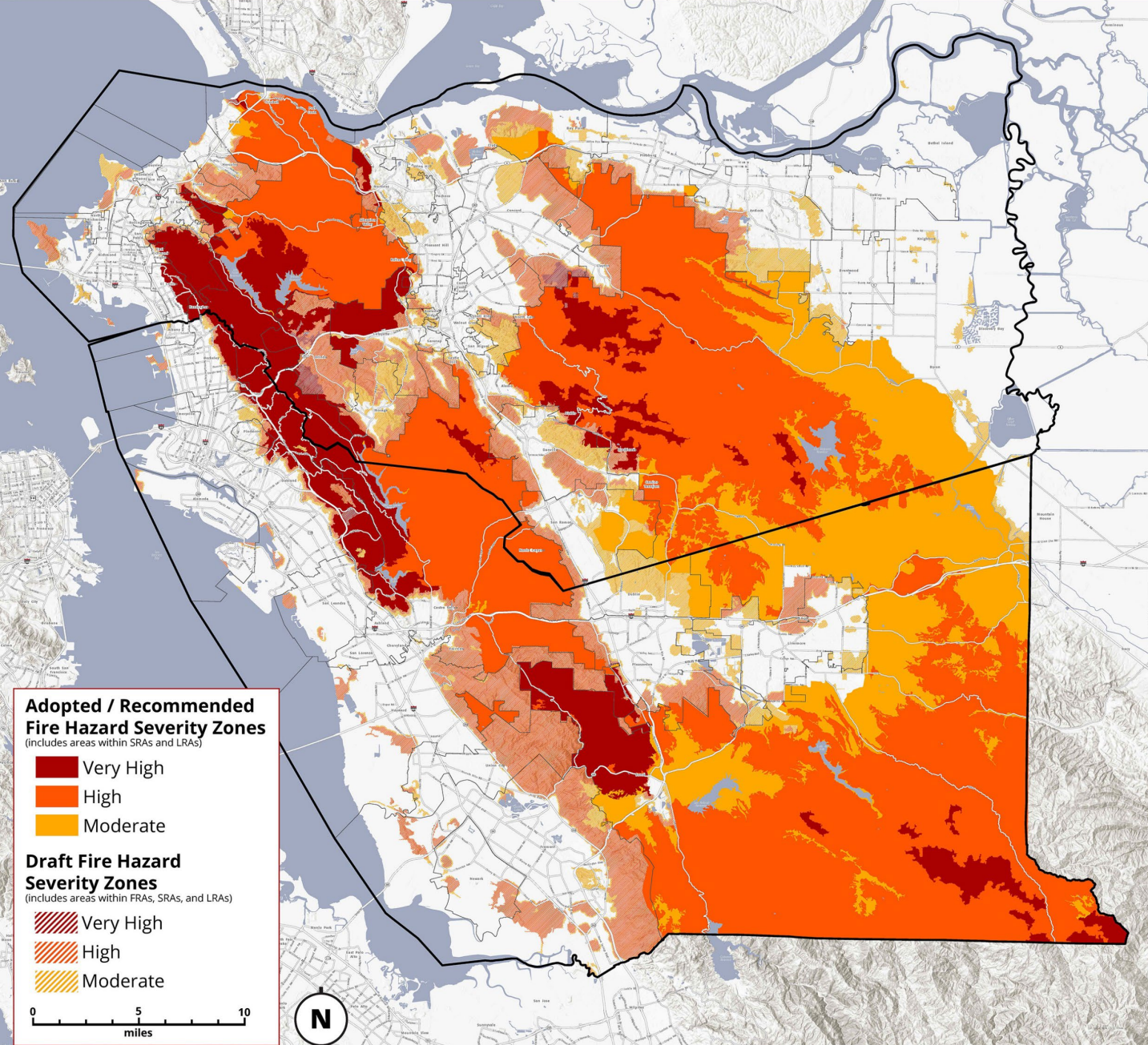
Wildfires do not respect political boundaries so fire prevention and vegetation management should be regional efforts.

Difficult to Coordinate

Coordinating among the many jurisdictions is a challenge without a specialized mechanism

CONTRA COSTA AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES Composite Fire Hazard Severity Zones*

*The fire hazard severity zones shown here are a COMPOSITE of three CAL FIRE datasets:
1) **ADOPTED** (Nov 2007) State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) with Very High, High, and Moderate fire hazard severity designations.
2) **RECOMMENDED** (Sep 2008, Jan 2009) Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) with Very High fire hazard severity designation.
3) **DRAFT** (Sep 2007) fire hazard severity zones in Federal (FRA), State (SRA), or Local (LRA) Responsibility Areas.



Existing Wildfire Prevention Activities

- » **Hills Emergency Forum (HEF)**
- » **Regional Priority Plan (RPP)**
- » **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**
- » **EBRPD Wildfire Risk and Fine Scale Vegetation Mapping**
- » **East Bay Regional Communication System Authority**

Gaps in Wildfire Prevention Activity Coordination

- » **Coordination exists for wildfire suppression, but not for prevention**
- » **Increased Attention should be given to WUI areas**
- » **No dedicated staff for regional wildfire prevention coordination**
- » **No interjurisdictional framework for policy making**
- » **Uneven enforcement of vegetation management regulations and state fire code**
- » **State and federal grant procurement could be optimized through regional coordination, support for smaller jurisdictions**

Our Work to Date

- » **2019-2021:** Oakland Firesafe Council (OFC) and affiliated organizations began fundraising and coordination of this current effort
- » **December 2021:** First meeting of 25+ agency officials
- » **Summer 2022:** Agreement to work towards MOU
- » **Fall 2022:** OFC retains Hanson Bridgett law firm to draft MOU
- » **Dec 2023:** Draft MOU is presented to Working Group
- » **Spring 2023:** MOU is revised with input from Working Group
- » **June 2023:** Working Group agrees to present Revised MOU to agency representatives and make public

Funding Partners Supporting MOU Development

- » **Bay Area Air Quality Management District**
- » **Donner Family Fund**
- » **State Coastal Conservancy grant with the Bay Area Council Economic Forum**
- » **California State Auto Association insurance division**
- » **PG&E**
- » **Additional contributions from individuals and neighborhood groups in the East Bay Hills**
- » **Alameda County**
- » **Contra Costa County**
- » **City of Berkeley**
- » **City of Oakland**
- » **City of Richmond**
- » **City of Pinole**
- » **Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District**



Working Group Members

Alameda County

Office of Supervisor **Keith Carson**, Fire Chief **William McDonald**

Contra Costa County

Office of Supervisor **John Gioia**, Fire Chief **Lewis Broschard**

City of Berkeley

Councilmember **Susan Wengraf**, Assistant Fire Chief **Dan Green**

City of Oakland

Deputy City Administrator **Joe DeVries**,
Deputy Fire Chief **Damon Covington**/Fire Chief **Reginald Freeman**

City of Pinole

Mayor Pro Tem **Maureen Toms**

City of Richmond

Councilmember **Gayle McLaughlin**, Fire Chief **Angel Montoya**

Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District

Fire Chief **Dave Winnacker**



Memorandum of Understanding

*for coordination of wildfire prevention activities to protect the
East Bay Hills in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*

Photo credit: Julia Sumangil Photography

Recitals

- » **Highlights the high wildfire risk in the East Bay Hills area**
- » **Emphasizes the need for regional coordination among jurisdictions, fire districts, and regional agencies**
- » **Formation of a group of public officials representing the counties, municipalities, and fire districts**
- » **Common goals regarding regional wildfire prevention**

Recitals, Continued

- » **Description of the wildfire prevention activities performed by Participating Agencies**
- » **Current collaboration efforts within counties, but limited coordination across county lines**
- » **Desire to improve coordination and enhance efficacy and efficiency of activities**
- » **Shared goal of increasing each Participating Agency's level of service to residents and property owners**

Recitals, Continued

- » **Desire to create opportunities for cross-agency communication and cooperation**
- » **No alteration of jurisdictional boundaries, cooperative efforts, or legal authorities**
- » **Description of responsibilities of the counties, municipalities, and fire protection districts**
- » **Ratification and enforcement of Fire Codes within respective jurisdictions**

Shared Intent

- » **Collaboration strategies and activities to minimize wildfire hazards in the East Bay Hills**
- » **Assisting in the development of model codes for fire prevention**
- » **Joint plans for vegetation management and wildfire-resistant vegetation**
- » **Partnering to apply for state, federal, and other grant funds**
- » **Planning for wildfire evacuations and response across jurisdictions**

Co-operative Structure



**East Bay Hills
Regional Wildfire
Prevention Coordinating
Group (WPCG)**

Formation and Composition

- » **Each Participating Agency appoints one member and one alternate from its governing body**
- » **Members and alternates are elected or appointed officials**

Principles and Duties

- » **Hold open and public meetings**
- » **Establish goals, procedures and programs**
- » **Designate a Fiscal Agent**
- » **Develop and implement a plan for staff support**
- » **Institute a dues structure**
- » **Apply for grants and other funds**
- » **Adopt an annual budget**

Decision Making Process

- » **Decision making requires an affirmative vote of the majority**
- » **Quorum requires representatives from 50% plus one of the Participating Agencies**
- » **Additional decision-making procedures may be established**

NEXT STEPS

- » **Ratification by City Councils, Boards of Supervisors and Fire District Boards of jurisdictions in the East Bay wildfire high risk zone**



Contact

JON KAUFMAN jonk@solem.com

LISA JACOBS ljacobs@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org

DAVID EARLY dearly@placeworks.com

EastBayWildfire.org