

MEETING OF THE

**East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC)
Monday, September 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PDT**

**El Cerrito City Hall, Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530**

AGENDA

Virtual Attendance:

Zoom Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86497018058?pwd=gjwRO5rbbk9qa8qRDTpZe2rlDrYvnJ.1>

Meeting ID: 864 9701 8058

Passcode: 667500

Or dial in via phone: 1(669) 444 9171

Meeting ID: 864 9701 8058

Passcode: 667500

NOTES:

- All items on the agenda are subject to action.
- Before any action is taken, there will be an opportunity for public comment.
- Meeting minutes will be made publicly available.

1. CALL TO ORDER | ROLL CALL

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM MEETING OF JULY 8, 2024

3. APPROVE NEW MEMBER

- a. City of Hercules (Councilmember Alex Walker-Griffin)

4. INTRODUCE REGIONAL ADVISERS

- a. UC Berkeley
- b. Lawrence Berkeley National Labs
- c. East Bay Regional Parks Department

5. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- a. Briefing by Niccolo de Luca, Townsend Public Affairs

6. AD HOC COMMITTEE PROPOSAL: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- a. Presentation of proposed strategic framework (Chair Wengraf)

7. AD HOC COMMITTEE PROPOSAL: FEE STRUCTURE OPTIONS

- a. Update on finances | fee structure options (Lisa Jacobs)

8. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

9. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

10. MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. Opportunity for members to make announcements/ final comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING OF THE

**East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC)*
Monday, July 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PDT**

**El Cerrito City Hall, Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530**

PROPOSED MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:04am.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present

1. Alameda County: Supervisor Elisa Marquez
2. Contra Costa County: Supervisor John Gioia
3. City of Berkeley: Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf (Chair)
4. City of El Cerrito: Councilmember Paul Fadelli
5. City of Oakland: Councilmember Janani Ramachandran (Vice Chair)
6. City of Richmond: Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin
7. Rodeo-Hercules FPD: Board Vice Chair Marie Bowman

Fire Chiefs Present

Contra Costa County (Chief Lewis Broschard & Fire Marshal Chris Bachman)
Alameda County (Chief William McDonald)
City of Berkeley (Interim Deputy Chief Colin Arnold)
City of El Cerrito (Chief Eric Saylor)
City of Oakland (Chief Damon Covington)
City of Richmond (Interim Chief Michael Smith)

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM MEETING OF APRIL 29

The Chair communicated one change to the minutes to mark Marie Bowman as present (non-voting due to her participation via Zoom from a private location).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION: Motion by Gioia, seconded by Fadelli to approve minutes with noted change.

VOTE: 7-0-0: Passed unanimously ([see this link](#))

3. APPROVE NEW MEMBERS

* In agenda item #4 members agreed to adopt the trade name East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC) instead of the non-descriptive legal moniker: Wildfire Prevention Coordinating Group (WPCG).

The Kensington Fire Protection District did not approve the MOU at its most recent meeting. Therefore, the City of Pinole represented by Mayor Maureen Toms is the only new jurisdiction to join at this meeting.

Once the organization has a Fiscal Agent, only the Fiscal Agent's signature is needed to formally accept new members. In the absence of a Fiscal Agent, the Board is required to take a motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION: Motion by Wengraf, seconded by Bowman: *Recognizing the ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding for Coordination of Wildfire Prevention Activities to Protect the East Bay Hills in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties by its governing body, and in the absence of a Fiscal Agent, the Participating Agencies hereby welcome the City of Pinole, represented by Mayor Maureen Toms, to be an official Participating Agency.*

VOTE: 7-0-0: Passed unanimously

4. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Chair Wengraf proposed a more descriptive name for the group: the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, using the acronym EBWC. According to legal advice, the organization use any 'trade name' it wishes as long as the moniker is adopted by the members.

PUBLIC COMMENT: One member of the public provided comment.

ACTION: Motion by Toms, seconded by Ramachandran to approve the new trade name for the organization: the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC).

VOTE: 8-0-0: Passed unanimously

5. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Fire Departments: Chief Eric Saylor (El Cerrito) & Interim Deputy Chief Colin Arnold (Berkeley) presented. [See this link.](#)
- B. Native Plant Society and Sierra Club: Norman La Force (Sierra Club) & Jim Hanson (California Native Plant Society, East Bay) presented. [See this link.](#)
- C. East Bay FireSafe Alliance: Henry DeNero (Berkeley FireSafe Council) & Jon Kaufman (Claremont Canyon Conservancy) & Soheila Bana (West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council) presented. [See this link.](#)

Members asked questions and discussed the presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Seven members of the public provided comments.

NO ACTION

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Lisa Jacobs reported that approximately \$10,000 remains at the Oakland Firesafe Council's bank account from community-raised funding to support the creation of the EBWC. This amount does not include the \$16,000 still to be received from the City of Oakland and the Bay Area Council Economics Institute. In addition, OFSC has identified an anonymous donor to provide additional funds. Ms. Jacobs encouraged the group to consider financing and strategy development as a joint goal given that the organization cannot consider programs until identifies ongoing funding. Contra Costa County has expressed openness to consider having the CCCFD act as fiscal agent for the EBWC; a meeting with relevant officials is scheduled later in July.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NO ACTION

7. REGIONAL ADVISORY BODY

Chair Wengraf proposed inviting Regional Advisory Partners to provide input to the EBWC. The entities to invite included East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), UC Berkeley, East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories (LBNL), Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, East Bay FireSafe Alliance, and the Diablo FireSafe Council.

Members discussed the idea and were generally in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NO ACTION

8. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The proposed meeting dates of September 9, October 7, and November 4 did not work for many members. Chair Wengraf / Placeworks will follow up with members to identify and announce the dates for EBWC meetings in 2024.

Chair Wengraf announced that she will work Vice Chair Ramachandran and two Contra Costa County EBWC members to develop strategic planning options for the EBWC to consider at its next meeting, in the form of a one- or two-pager to keep it simple. Supervisor Gioia and Councilmember McLaughlin volunteered to participate.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NO ACTION

9. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Two members of the public provided comments.

10. MEMBER COMMENTS

One EBWC member provided comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 pm

East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC)

September 23, 2024

Strategic Framework One-Pager

During the recess, the ad hoc committee: Chair Susan Wengraf, Vice Chair Janani Ramachandran, Supervisor John Gioia and Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, worked to develop a proposed strategic framework that identifies the organization's purpose/mission, areas of interest, and immediate priorities.

The attached Strategic Framework "One Pager" is intended to help define and communicate strategic priorities of the newly formed organization. It is not meant to be an over-arching strategy document; long-term goals and specific activities are still to be defined.

The components of the strategic framework that the EBWC is being asked to adopt are:

1. Mission Statement: The proposed mission statement (text in italics) briefly describes who we are and what we (intend to) do: *The East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC) is a regional consortium of elected officials representing cities, counties and fire districts committed to safeguarding our communities and natural landscapes in the East Bay Hills. We champion proactive, cooperative approaches to mitigating, through education and collaboration, the increasing threat of wildfires due to the climate crisis.*
 - a. **FOR DECISION:** Discuss and approve the mission statement
2. Strategic Focus: The ad hoc committee identified two program areas to focus our efforts and gain some "quick wins":
 - 1) home hardening – to include defensible space and "zone zero" with three specific objectives: education, legislation and funding;
 - 2) vegetation management – develop a science-based, ecologically sound, regionwide vegetation management plan.
 - a. **FOR DECISION:** Discuss and agree that the current focus areas of the EBWC are home hardening and vegetation management, pursuing the activities described in the one-pager
3. Areas of Interest: Five program areas were defined in the MOU as our "Shared Intent". The one-pager merely translates the MOU contents into concise language.
 - a. **FOR DECISION:** Discuss and agree that the one-pager reflects EBWC members' shared intent.
4. Members: Lists current members jurisdictions and their representatives; Strategic Partners; role of fire chiefs.
 - a. **FOR DECISION:** Discuss and agree that that list of members currently reflects EBWC and its relation to regional partners and fire departments.

Once the concept and contents are approved by the EBWC, a designer can be retained to create a more professional-looking document.

East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC)

The East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC) is a regional consortium of elected officials representing cities, counties and fire districts committed to safeguarding our communities and natural landscapes in the East Bay Hills. We champion proactive, cooperative approaches to mitigating, through education and collaboration, the increasing threat of wildfires due to the climate crisis.

Focus: Home Hardening

- **Education:** Create program to inform community & decision-makers, local contractors & landscapers about home hardening, defensible space and “zone zero”
- **Legislation:** Support adoption of local ordinances to include wildfire risk reduction measures: home hardening, defensible space and “zone zero”
- **Funding:** Create regional assistance program for homeowners to implement “zone zero”

Focus: Vegetation Management

- **Funding:** Raise funds for situational analyses, plans and environmental impact report for a regionwide vegetation management plan
- **Project management:** Apply for grants, distribute funding and support activities

Members (Autumn 2024)

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Alameda County	Supervisor Elisa Marquez
Contra Costa County	Supervisor John Gioia
Berkeley	Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf (Chair)
El Cerrito	Councilmember Paul Fadelli
Hercules	Councilmember Alex Walker-Griffin
Oakland	Councilmember Janani Ramachandran (Vice Chair)
Pinole	Mayor Maureen Toms
Richmond	Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin
Rodeo-Hercules FPD	Vice Chair Marie Bowman

Regional Advisors: UC Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, East Bay Regional Parks District, East Bay FireSafe Councils and others.

Fire Chiefs: Fire officials participate in all EBWC meetings and advise their respective elected representatives between meetings.

Areas of Interest



Strengthen local **building & fire codes** and adherence



Advocate for local and state **legislation**



Support science-driven **vegetation management** priorities



Support **evacuation & response** programs



Secure new **funding** for **regional priorities**

East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC)

September 23, 2024

Options for Member Fee Structure

The effort to create the EBWC has been largely driven by volunteers, with professional consulting help that has been financed by funds raised by the coalition. Now that the EBWC is formed the EBWC needs to consider how its work will be supported in the future. Funds are running low.

To do the work envisioned, some professional help will be needed for the organizing, program development, fundraising and management work required to meet the goals of the strategic framework. Therefore the ad hoc committee has considered options for a member fee structure. As noted in the MOU, the fee structure must be approved by 100% of members.

A budget of \$100,000 for year 2025 is proposed. Given budget timelines and the urgent need for funding, we have also developed a reduced budget option.

Option 1 -Full \$100k

The two counties carry the majority (60%) of the total fees annually; their share is split equally. The remaining 40% is split between the local member jurisdictions* based on population size. There is a proposed minimum fee of 3% (\$3,000) for all members.

Option 1 – Reduced -\$60k

In the interest of raising funds quickly, this option gives jurisdictions smaller amounts to bring back to their respective decision-making bodies. But it only raises \$60,000.

Option 2-Full \$100k

The two counties carry one half (50%) of the total fees annually; their share is split equally. The remaining 50% is split based on the amounts that several member cities invested in the past – amounts noted in the spreadsheet. This option also includes a minimum fee of 3% (\$3,000) for all members.

Option 2 – Reduced \$60k

Uses the Option 2 scenario with a smaller target budget.

FOR DECISION: Discuss and vote on the preferred option to bring back to local jurisdictions for consideration.

* The Rodeo Hercules Fire District is not envisioned to pay any fees. It will soon be subsumed into Contra Costa Fire Protection District.

OPTION 1 – Counties 60% | City split based on population | 3% minimum

	<i>Population</i>	Proposed Budget	Reduced Budget
Alameda County	1,629,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
CC County	1,157,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
Berkeley	125,327	\$6,000	\$3,000
El Cerrito	25,700	\$3,000	\$1,800
Hercules	25,920	\$3,000	\$1,800
Oakland	425,093	\$20,000	\$9,000
Pinole	18,192	\$3,000	\$1,800
Richmond	112,735	\$5,000	\$2,600
		\$100,000	\$60,000

OPTION 2 – Counties 50% | City split based on precedent | 3% minimum

	<i>Early investment amounts</i>	Proposed Budget	Reduced Budget
Alameda County	\$7,500	\$25,000	\$15,000
Contra Costa County	\$7,500	\$25,000	\$15,000
Berkeley	\$4,500	\$13,000	\$7,800
El Cerrito	\$0	\$3,000	\$1,800
Hercules	\$0	\$3,000	\$1,800
Oakland	\$6,000	\$18,000	\$10,800
Pinole	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$1,800
Richmond	\$3,500	\$10,000	\$6,000
	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$60,000

McWhorter, Laurie

From: Willett, Jason <Jason.Willett@csaa.com>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 2:54 PM
To: McWhorter, Laurie
Cc: Wengraf, Susan
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] East Bay Wildfire Coalition

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Laurie –

I appreciate you bringing this to our attention but at this time we are unable to offer additional funding.

Please keep us posted on your progress and feel free to reach out in the future.

Thanks,
Jason

Jason Willett | External Affairs

CSAA Insurance Group

925.278.3312

LinkedIn / Facebook / Instagram



CSAA Insurance
a AAA Insurer

From: McWhorter, Laurie <LMcWhorter@berkeleyca.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 12:39 PM

To: Willett, Jason <Jason.Willett@csaa.com>

Cc: Wengraf, Susan <SWengraf@berkeleyca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] East Bay Wildfire Coalition

You don't often get email from lmcwhorter@berkeleyca.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email

Dear Mr. Jason Willett,

I hope this email finds you well.

Berkeley Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf has written a letter to you on behalf of the newly formed East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, for which she serves as chair. I have attached the letter to this email and also put it out for USPS delivery. I hope you will find the letter and proposal promising.

Warmly,
Laurie