



**KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.  
Kensington Community Center - Meeting Room 3,  
59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707 (and hybrid)

*Public Member Annette McCoubrey's Remote Location*  
157 Towle Road, Alta, California 95701

**How to Submit Public Comments:**

Prior to the meeting: Members of the public may submit public comment by emailing the Chair and Board Clerk by emailing: [public.comment@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:public.comment@kensingtonfire.org). by two hours prior to the meeting start time. Such comments will be noted as received and their contents orally summarized; however, if you attend the meeting, you will need to make your comment during the meeting.

During the meeting: Public comment will be taken on each agenda item, and comment on issues not on the agenda will be taken at the beginning of the meeting (*regular meetings only*). Members of the public who attend the meeting either in-person or via Zoom are allowed to provide public comment verbally with a maximum allowance of 3 minutes per individual comment, subject to the Chair's discretion. Each member of the public will be allotted the same maximum number of minutes to speak as set by the Chair, except that public speakers using interpretation assistance will be allowed to testify for twice the amount of the public testimony time limit (California Government Code section 54954.3(a)).

*In-person:* At points in the meeting when the meeting chair requests public comment, members of the public participating in-person can simply raise their hand to be recognized.

*Via Zoom:* If participating via internet, please click the "raise hand" feature located within the Zoom application screen. If connected via telephone, please dial "\*9" (star, nine).

**Accommodations:** To enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title 1), if you need special assistance to participate, please email [public.comment@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:public.comment@kensingtonfire.org) 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**Agenda and supplemental materials:** This agenda is available on the KFPD website under the relevant meeting date: <https://www.kensingtonfire.org/emergency-preparedness-committee>. Please note that supplemental materials will be posted on the website with the agenda as soon as they are available prior to the meeting. Additional information and/or materials may be presented at the meeting itself.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The District will use Zoom to allow virtual access to this meeting. This additional means of access is provided as a courtesy to the public and is not required by law. The meeting will continue to be conducted at the physical address provided above regardless of any interruption or failure of the Zoom transmission.

**Hybrid Meeting Option Internet Address:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87249886164?pwd=gYtgTuk36auhDOdYKuWpU2JsR4SiKP.1>

**Telephone Access:**

(669) 444-9171

**Zoom Webinar ID:** 872 4988 6164

**Passcode:** 185972

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Directors: Director Madugo, Director Paul, Director Spath and Director Watt  
Public Members: Kay Blonz, Katie Gluck, Annette McCoubrey, Paul Moss and Laura Westphal  
Staff: David Aranda Interim General Manager  
Consultants: Mary Morris-Mayorga  
Raychel Jackson  
Johnny Valenzuela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Under "Public Comment," the public may address the Committee on any subject not listed on the agenda. Please address your comments to the Committee and not to staff and/or the audience. Each speaker may address the Committee once under Public Comment for a limit of three minutes. The public will be given an opportunity to speak on each agenda item and once the public comment portion of any item on this agenda has been closed by the Committee, no further comment from the public will be permitted unless authorized by the Committee. The Committee cannot act on items not listed on the agenda and, therefore, cannot respond to non-agenda issues brought up under Public Comment other than to provide general information. Committee members will also have an opportunity to comment on items not on the agenda.

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

a. **Approval of Minutes** for the special meeting on May 14, 2026

**4. OLD BUSINESS – None**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Receive status updates on 2026 EPC Work Plan progress - Valenzuela**

b. **Discuss and provide recommendation to the Board on rebranding the Fire Plug**

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The list of future agenda items discussed during the meeting will be summarized here.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Community Service District is scheduled for June 25, 2026 at 4:00pm in person (Committee members) at the Kensington Community Center with hybrid option for attendees (guest speakers, public), unless noticed otherwise per the Brown Act.



**KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE/TIME:** May 14, 2026, 4:00PM

**Agenda Item 03a**

**LOCATION:** Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington (and hybrid)

**PRESENT:** Directors: Director Madugo, Director Paul, Director Spath and Director Watt  
Public Members Kay Blonz, Katie Gluck, Annette McCoubrey, Paul Moss  
Absent Staff: David Aranda, Interim General Manager  
Consultants: Mary Morris-Mayorga  
Raychel Jackson  
Absent: Johnny Valenzuela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Director Madugo called the regular meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and confirmed the roll call.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT (00:01:47)**

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Minutes EPC regular meeting: 3/28/2026**

**Moved/Seconded:** Watt / Spath **Action:** Approved minutes of the 3/28/2026 meetings **Ayes:** Paul, Madugo, Spath, Watt, Blonz, Gluck, Moss and McCoubrey **Noes:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None  
**Video Time Stamped: 00:03:33**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Review any New Applications for EPC Public Member Seats**

**Moved/Seconded:** McCoubrey / Gluck **Action:** Moves to recommend to the KCSD Board of Directors Laura Westphal as a public member to the Emergency Preparedness Committee **Ayes:** Paul, Spath, Watt, Madugo, Blonz, Gluck, Moss and McCoubrey **Noes:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None  
**Video Time Stamped: 00:07:17**

**b. Review and Update Emergency Preparedness Committee Protocols to Support Monthly Meetings**

**Moved/Seconded:** Spath / Paul **Action:** Moves to recommend to the KCSD Board of Directors to accept the EPC protocol policy change to monthly meetings **Ayes:** Paul, Spath, Watt, Madugo, Blonz, Gluck, Moss and McCoubrey **Noes:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None  
**Video Time Stamped: 00:17:53**

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM (00:19:16)**

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** Director Madugo adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Community Services District is scheduled for May 28, 2026 at 4:00pm in person (Committee members) at the Kensington Community Center with hybrid option for attendees (guest speakers, public), unless noticed otherwise per the Brown Act.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Raychel Jackson

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Community Services District on May 28, 2026.

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Emergency Preparedness Committee Member**



## Kensington Community Services District

DATE: May 28, 2026

TO: Emergency Preparedness Committee

FROM: Mary A. Morris-Mayorga, Consultant

SUBJECT: Receive status updates on 2026 EPC Work Plan progress

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update of the Board approved 2026 EPC Work Plan from the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

### BACKGROUND:

The Emergency Preparedness Committee began establishing an annual work plan several years ago to gain Board approval on initiatives, assist in facilitating productive meeting discussions, and to allow progress reporting, which is also a good mechanism to keep the community informed. This has been beneficial in structuring the meetings such that they provide value to the public who may be attending or view/listen later.

Johnny Valenzuela will provide status updates through the attached documents as well as verbally during the meeting.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact identified for this item which is not currently included in the budget.

### EXHIBIT(S):

- 2026 Emergency Preparedness Committee Work Plan (final)
- Emergency Preparedness Report for May 2026
- Earthquake Subcommittee - Established Goals for 2026



**KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**  
**Emergency Preparedness Committee**  
**May 28, 2026**

*KCSD Board of Directors approved on February 12, 2026*

2026 Emergency Preparedness Committee Work Plan		
Work Plan Goal/Project	Assigned Members	Steps/Status
1. Red Flag Day Parking - staff to facilitate a workshop with Fire and Police Chiefs and the EPC to arrive at consensus on an approach to be submitted for Board approval.	Blonz, Moss, Watt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of workshop</li> </ul>
2. Create two grant tiers (small vs. large) for Board approval and initiate program for FY 2026-27.	Blonz, Moss, Spath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved</li> <li>• 3/1 grant opens</li> </ul>
3. Secure \$15k BOD approved funding and develop Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP) Pilot Program.	Blonz, McCoubrey, Watt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$15k approved</li> <li>• Develop mesh program</li> </ul>
4. Increase coordination and awareness of vegetation removal programs through Firewise leads, block presentations, and FPO inspections.	Madugo, Paul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas</li> </ul>
5. Support Firewise leadership development and resident participation in Kensington Firewise Strategic Plan objectives.	Moss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>
6. Determine next steps for Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs).	Gluck, Madugo, Spath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>
7. Reinforce the community's understanding of the Red Flag Day Banners and improve the community's understanding of Watch Duty to promote early pre-evacuation.	Gluck, Moss, Westphal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>
8. Increase earthquake preparedness.	Gluck, Madugo, McCoubrey, Moss, Westphal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>
9. Establish a strong CERT program partnership in Kensington.	staff/consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>



## Kensington Community Services District

### Kensington Community Services District

### Emergency Preparedness Committee / Earthquake Subcommittee

### RE: Established Goals for 2026

#### **Goal 1 – Personal & Family Preparedness**

Develop messaging for the household supply cache, a family plan template (including split-location scenarios), and an individual communication plan that requires an out-of-area contact.

#### **Goal 2 – Neighborhood Preparedness** addresses the emergency supply sheds.

Map and provide the status of the CERT supply sheds.

Conduct a full inventory of CERT supply sheds, develop a standardized supply checklist, an official location registry shared with KFD and KPD, and an ongoing maintenance protocol.

Integrate Map Your Neighborhood as a mechanism to engage individual households and community presentations/Firewise and CERT coordination to improve neighborhood preparedness.

**Goal 3 – Community Communication Plan:** Improve the ham radio/Con Fire integration gap, flag engagement with seismic geology resources early, and develop a multi-tier communication protocol that links residents, Block Captains, first responders, and County EOC.



# **Kensington Emergency Preparedness Report**

**May 2026**

**Emergency Preparedness Coordinator: Johnny Valenzuela**

Kensington's emergency preparedness initiatives continue to show measurable community engagement across vegetation management, ember risk reduction, Firewise participation, and CERT organizing. Grant and pilot program activity indicate increasing resident awareness, stronger neighborhood-level participation, and growing receptiveness to mitigation actions that reduce wildfire risk around structures and along public corridors.

## **Hazardous Vegetation Removal Reimbursement (HVRR)**

The grant application period closes on May 31, 2026. Applications will be reviewed by the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee on June 4 and then forwarded to the Kensington Community Services District Board for the June 2026 monthly board meeting.

Eucalyptus removal has increased in this application cycle compared with previous rounds, suggesting a stronger public understanding of the risks posed by high-risk vegetation. Community awareness also appears to be increasing more broadly, with residents showing greater willingness to make vegetation changes near structures in support of hazard reduction goals.

A proposed project on Willamette Avenue would remove sidewalk vegetation and improve the availability of off-street parking. The proposal reflects awareness-building generated by the 2025 Willamette Avenue Study and Poll, while Firewise leads continue to promote the reimbursement program and encourage residents to address targeted plants along roadways and fence lines where shared risk is a concern.

Although the number of applications for this program is lower than in prior funding cycles, residents are removing hazardous vegetation without participating in this program, allowing others to benefit from the resources.

Residents who have used the program in the past and have become ineligible for future funding have looked toward coordinating with neighbors to leverage the Measure X Community Chipping Program.

## **Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP)**

The Ember Exclusion Program application period also closes on May 31, 2026. Since April 1, 2026, the pilot program has received more than 80 applications, indicating a strong early response from residents.

Residents appear increasingly aware of ember cast risk and are evaluating their properties for ways to reduce ember propagation and prevent ember intrusion into structures. Feedback from applicants also suggests interest in expanding the program to cover additional mitigation features, especially decks and gutters.

## **Red Flag Ready- Flag Placement Plan**

A study is currently underway to determine storage, access, placement, and distribution needs for the Red Flag Warning flags. A report is in development, and its recommendations will be presented to the Emergency Preparedness Committee for consideration and development of a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

As CERT and Firewise volunteer capacity continues to grow, both groups may become viable partners for flag distribution when the National Weather Service declares Red Flag Warnings affecting Kensington in National Weather Zone 508. The flags are intended to serve as visible reminders on key streets identified by KCSD as subject to parking restrictions during Red Flag Days, and additional flag purchases are expected to be proposed for review.

## **Firewise**

Kensington now has 22 recognized Firewise communities, including Trinity and Cambridge, which were recognized earlier this year. Door hangers have been distributed throughout Firewise communities to notify residents of their status, encourage certificate downloads, and support insurance-related use of that recognition.

The door hangers also direct residents to the Kensington Firewise website for information. Neighborhood engagement continues to build, as shown by the Sunset Firewise block event held on May 14 and by increasing collaboration among Firewise leads across communities.

Firewise leaders are reinforcing preparedness messaging and strengthening the impact of KCSD initiatives, which is reflected in program applications and resident inquiries submitted to KCSD and the El Cerrito Kensington Fire Department. More broadly, Firewise formation appears to be improving coordination and relationships among neighbors, our public safety agencies, and neighboring organizations such as the Berkeley Fire Safe Council and El Cerrito Fire Safe Council.

## **CERT**

The recent Community Kick-Off was well attended, drawing more than 55 participants from El Cerrito and Kensington. The event also helped increase interest in the CERT course that El Cerrito Kensington Fire plans to conduct in Fall 2026.

El Cerrito Kensington CERT now has a steering committee that meets weekly to build the organization and support a sustainable, community-led emergency response capability. At the block level, a May 9 meeting on Richardson achieved 50 percent participation, with 13 of 26 households attending.



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MAY 2026



# **HAZARDOUS VEGETATION REMOVAL REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

**FILING PERIOD: 3/1/2026 - 5/31/2026**

**[WWW.KENSINGTONFIRE.ORG/GRANT](http://WWW.KENSINGTONFIRE.ORG/GRANT)**

**FY 2026- 2027**



**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**  
**4/1/2026 - 5/31/2026**  
[www.kensingtonfire.org/keep](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/keep)

Apply to receive metal ember-resistant mesh for soffit, attic, and foundation vents to help block wind-driven embers from entering homes.

- **While supplies last**
- **Material-only assistance**
- **Install by homeowner, or contractor**



**WILDFIRE**<sup>TM</sup>  
DEFENSE MESH  
U.S. Patent Pending



**FSK**  
FIRESAFE KENSINGTON



## Kensington Takes a Major Step Forward to Protect Homes from Wildfire with New Community Resilience Program

Kensington Community Services District has launched the Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP) to strengthen home protection against wind-driven embers. KEEP expands wildfire resilience by pairing education with practical resources, delivered in partnership with Firesafe Kensington and Wildfire Defense Mesh for residents across the Kensington community.

### Program Highlights

- \$15,000 in initial KCSD funding to launch a pilot focused on ember awareness and home hardening
- Education, guidance, and resources for resident-led projects that reduce ember entry and fire risk
- Material resources for qualifying residents, including ember-resistant metal mesh
- Partnership-driven delivery that prioritizes efficiency, transparency, and community-wide benefit

KEEP builds on Kensington's broader wildfire resilience efforts by helping residents understand ember risk and take practical steps to protect homes and neighborhoods.



**Apply to receive metal ember-resistant mesh for soffit, attic, and foundation vents to help block wind-driven embers from entering homes.**

- **While supplies last**
- **Material-only assistance**
- **Install by homeowner, or contractor**

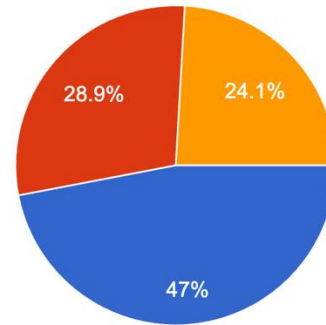
**APPLICATION FILING PERIOD:**  
4/1/2026 - 5/31/2026

[www.kensingtonfire.org/keep](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/keep)



Do you plan to hire a laborer/contractor to install the mesh.

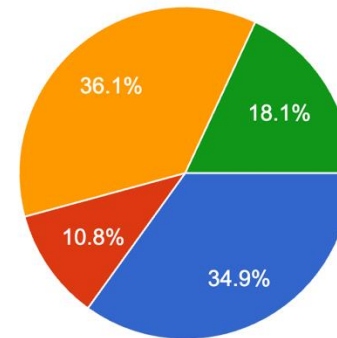
83 responses



- Yes, I will hire someone.
- No, I plan to do this without hiring anyone.
- Undecided.

Select your mesh preference

83 responses



- 1/16" Mesh in Black
- 1/16" Mesh in White
- 1/8" Mesh in Black
- 1/8" Mesh in White

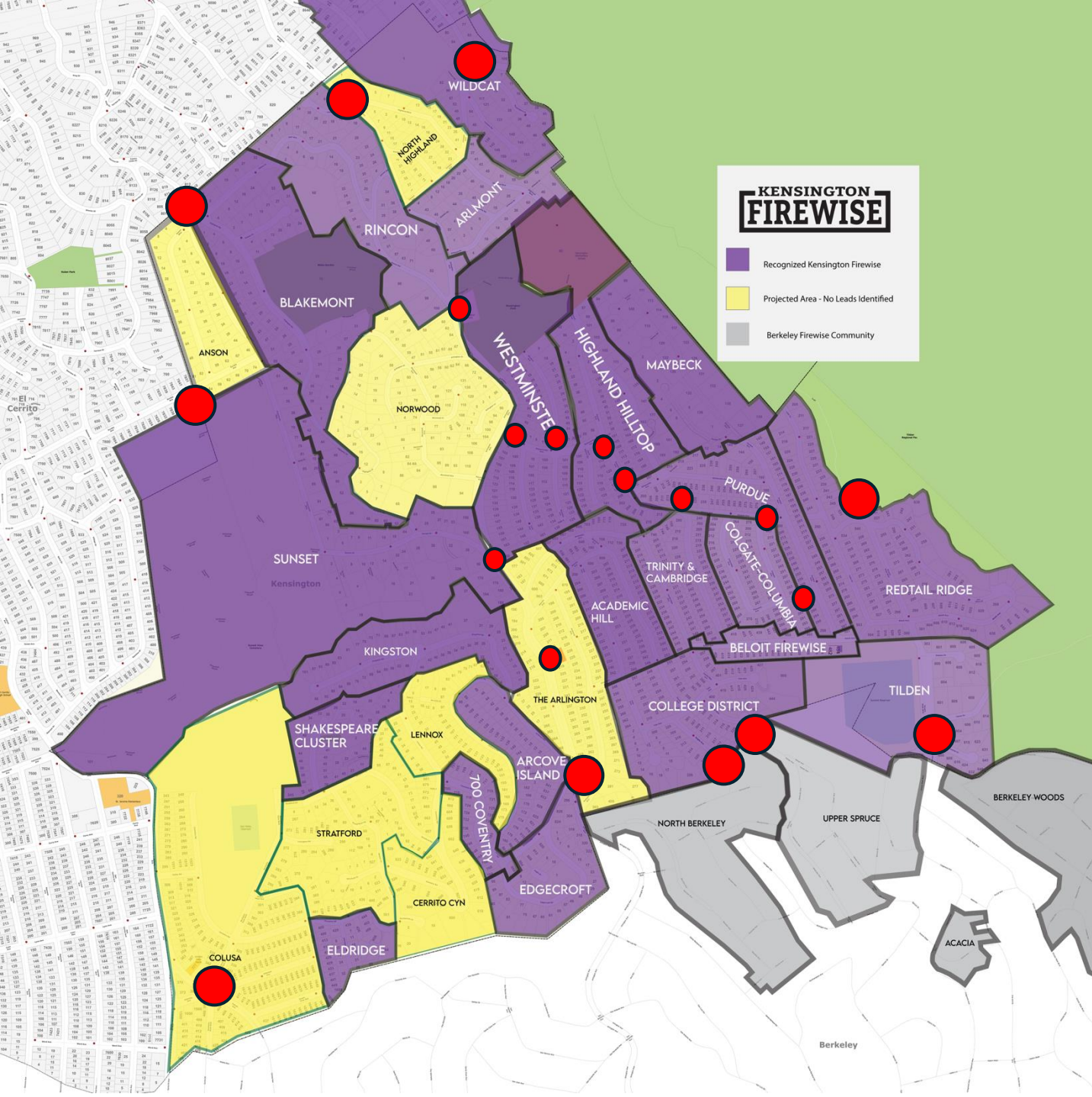


**RED FLAG READY**  
**CLEARING THE WAY, TOGETHER**



# RED FLAG PLACEMENT

- Subcommittee establishing placement and distribution plan
- Prioritizing entry points into Kensington
- Storing in an accessible location : Community Center
- Testing resistance to wind

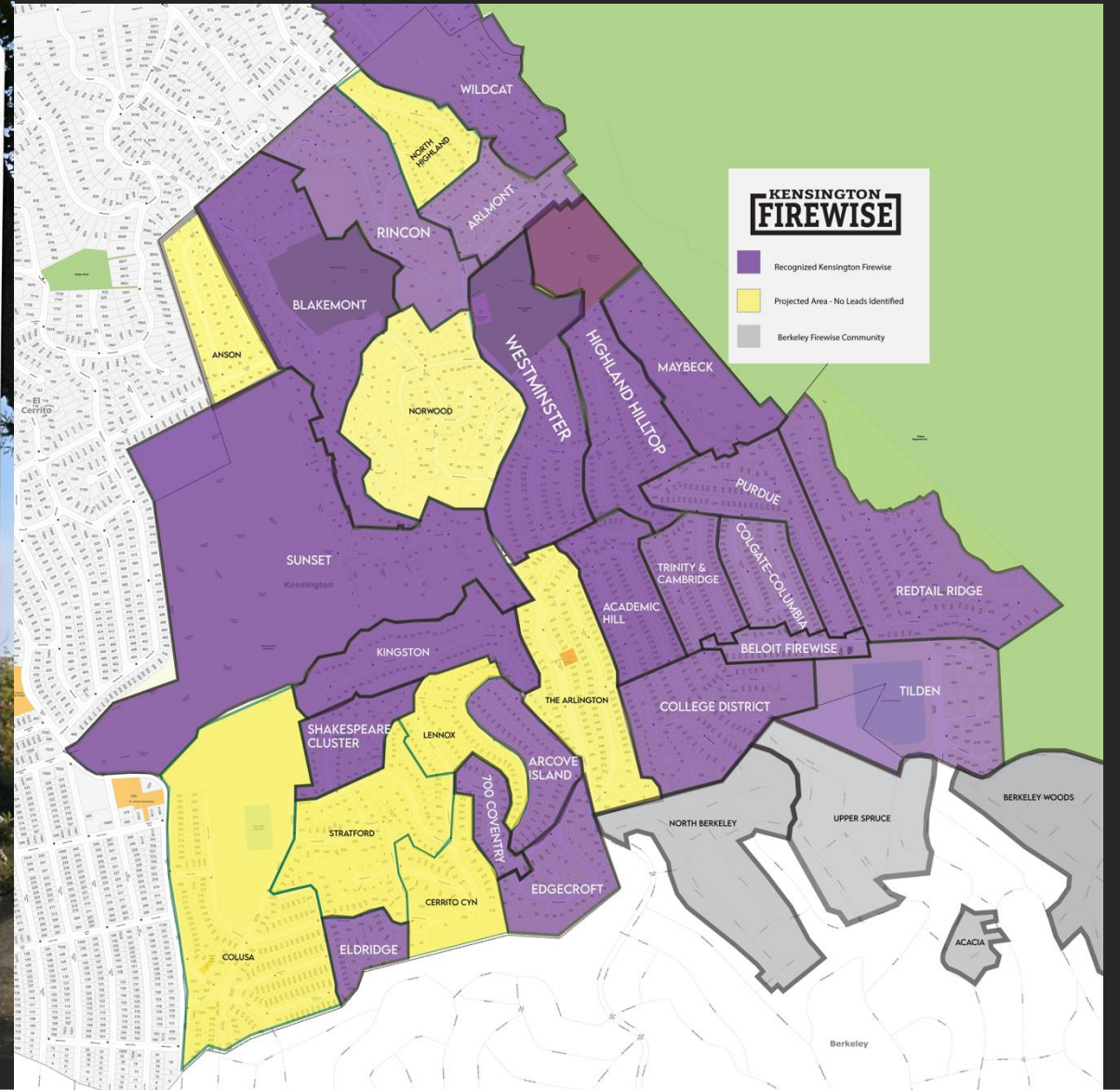


**KENSINGTON FIREWISE**

- Recognized Kensington Firewise
- Projected Area - No Leads Identified
- Berkeley Firewise Community

Berkeley

**KENSINGTON**  
**FIREWISE**





# CONGRATULATIONS!! Your home is now in a Firewise Community

## Welcome to Firewise!

Kensington has reached a **major** milestone with establishing more than 20 Firewise Communities.

Most insurance companies give a small discount for living in a Firewise Community. Read more on the back.

### A Firewise Community:

- Brings neighbors together around a shared mission to protect our neighborhood.
- Helps reduce the risk of losing homes to wildfire.
- Qualifies us for discounts with some insurers, and shows our neighborhood is taking action.
- Strengthens relationships between residents and first responders.

Visit your Firewise Community page on the Kensington Firewise website.

1. Go to [www.kensingtonfirewise.org](http://www.kensingtonfirewise.org)





## Neighborhoods working together on wildfire resilience & readiness

We are the network of Firewise Communities in Kensington, California, an unincorporated town in Contra Costa County. Organized by neighborhood volunteers and supported by our District officials and first responders, our goal is to connect with *every* Kensington resident and ensure they are prepared for a wildfire event.

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*Interested in organizing a Firewise group? We can help you get started. Contact us at [kensingtonfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:kensingtonfirewise@gmail.com)*

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## Our 21 Recognized Firewise Communities

-- *Community pages* --

*Report your activities, contact your Organizers, download a Community map, Certificate, and verification letter for insurers.*

[700 Coventry](#)

[Academic Hill](#)

[Arcove Island](#)

[Arlmont](#)

[Beloit](#)

[Blakemont](#)

[Colgate-Columbia](#)

[College District](#)

[Edgecroft](#)

[Eldridge](#)

[Highland Hilltop](#)

[Kingston](#)

[Maybeck](#)

[Purdue](#)

[Redtail Ridge](#)

[Rincon](#)

[Shakespeare Cluster](#)

[Sunset](#)

[Tilden](#)

[Westminster](#)

[Wildcat](#)

# SUNSET FIREWISE



## Sunset Drive Neighborhood Gathering

*When:* THURSDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

*Time:* 4:00 P.M.

*Where:* SUNSET TERRACE

*Discuss concerns about*

FIRE SAFETY  
TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ROAD CONDITIONS & EVACUATION FEASIBILITY  
OVERHEAD WIRES  
GRANTS FOR FUEL REDUCTION

*with*

DAVID ARANDA, K.C.S.D. General Manager

JOHNNY VALENZUELA, Neighborhood Firewise Liaison

*and your neighbors.*



# **CERT IS BACK**

**BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE PREPARED COMMUNITY**

**EL CERRITO & KENSINGTON RESIDENTS WELCOME!**

## **CERT COMMUNITY KICKOFF POTLUCK + MEETUP**

***WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026 6:30 PM***

**Kensington Community Center - 59 Arlington Ave.**

**RSVP & More information: [www.kensingtonfire.org/cert](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/cert)**

**REGISTER TODAY FOR THE COURSE!**

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING



- **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**
- **FIRE SAFETY & HAZARDS**
- **MEDICAL RESPONSE**
- **SEARCH & RESCUE**
- **& MORE!**

**BEGINS**  
**OCT 2026**  
COURSE BASED IN KENSINGTON  
**FREE ENROLLMENT**

RICHARD MARLOW BLOCK CERT

# Prep & Polka

GETTING CAMPY READY

*A little bubbles, a little basics*



DATE:  
Saturday,  
May 9th 2026



TIME:  
10:00–11:00 AM



LOCATION:  
68 Richardson

CERT Block Event

*Bring your Checklist and Enter the raffle!*