

## **General Manager Report**

December 13, 2018

**Matrix Police Study** – Matrix has completed a draft phase II report which was presented to the Board on Oct. 4. This report is now being finalized. There has been some public input on the report and Matrix is evaluating the validity of the information and also has responded to at least one extensive letter offering a different perspective on the cost and staffing of the Police Department.

I also want to note that the Town of Ross was selectively utilized to compare with Kensington. It is generally not a good practice to select a single comparison agency. Although on the surface, Ross may seem a good comparison. It also has many differences in location, terrain and demographics. Kensington is about twice the population and is a more diverse community. Although both communities have low crime rates, they tend to be higher in areas with greater population. Housing values are also significantly different between the two areas.

The options and target dates for completion - related to police services - will be presented to the Board in early 2019.

**Emergency Services** – Typically the Fire Dept. has a leadership role in providing these services. Kensington is unique with a separate Police District and Fire District in an unincorporated area of the county. The County generally oversees emergency services to unincorporated areas through the Emergency Services Division of the Sheriff's Office. In addition, fire services are provided by a contract with the El Cerrito Fire department.

At the last Board Meeting there was discussion about the Lafayette Evacuation Plan. The Plan is available on the Lafayette Website. I attempted to contact Lafayette to obtain information on how the plan was developed but have not been successful.

I was able to reach Meredith Gerhardt, *Emergency Planning Coordinator*, Office of the Sheriff, Emergency Services Division. Ms. Gerhardt is the coordinator who has responsibility for Kensington and indicated that as an incorporated city Lafayette prepared their own plan. Since they contract with the County for police services, the Office of the Sheriff was involved in the process. Ms. Gerhardt indicated that the Plan was largely driven by the Lafayette Police Chief, who is no longer with Lafayette. She also indicated that the plan was completed in 2017 and is the only evacuation plan completed in Contra Costa County. We discussed how Kensington could develop a plan and also include the Fire Department in the process. The next step is for the staff of the KPPCSD, Fire Department and County Emergency Services to meet and begin a development process. A community meeting can be part of this process to discuss the status of planning for evacuation and the role of individual residents.

The City of Berkeley is also in the process of developing a draft wildfire evacuation plan which is not yet in final form. This draft plan was headed by the Office of Emergency Services in the Berkeley Fire Department, in collaboration with the Transportation Division of Public Works and the Police Department. The efforts of Berkeley point to the possible advantages of coordinating with neighboring cities even if they are in a different county. There could be service benefits to the community by coordinating with the Berkeley and El Cerrito Fire Departments. I will be exploring these opportunities

***Financial Services Contract*** – At the August 9 Board Meeting a contract with Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP was approved. This firm has extensive experience in assisting small public agencies with a wide variety of financial services. There was a possibility that the firm could provide back-up to current operations, explore finding a new payroll system, and possibly assume some financial work at the District. Due to on-going workload with other clients, the firm has largely been unresponsive to formulating a plan for how they could assist the District. It is unlikely that the District will continue with this firm and will seek another financial firm to provide these services.