



KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Kensington Community Center - Meeting Room 3,
59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707 (and hybrid)

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. 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 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 and Paul Moss
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 meeting on January 22, 2026

4. OLD BUSINESS – None

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Review 2026 EPC Work Plan Progress** - Valenzuela
- b. **Overview of Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP) Pilot**
- c. **Review any new applications for EPC Public Member seats**
- d. **K6 Presentation**

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 March 26, 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
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

DATE/TIME: January 22, 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 and Paul Moss
 Absent: Katie Gluck
 Staff: David Aranda, Interim General Manager
 Consultants: Mary Morris-Mayorga
 Raychel Jackson
 Johnny Valenzuela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Director Madugo called the regular meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and confirmed the roll call.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (00:01:12)

3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

a. **Approval of Minutes** EPC special meeting: 1/8/2026

Moved/Seconded: Spath / Paul **Action:** Approved minutes of the 1/8/2026 meeting **Ayes:** Paul, Madugo, Spath, Watt, Blonz and Moss **Noes:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Gluck
Video Time Stamped: 00:17:12

4. OLD BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Finalize Work Plan Project Goals for 2026 with Status Provided by EP Coordinator**

Moved/Seconded: Paul / Watt **Action:** Move to bring Work Plan Goals for 2026 to KCSD Board approval **Ayes:** Paul, Madugo, Spath, Watt, Blonz and Moss **Noes:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Gluck
Video Time Stamped: 01:45:45

b. **Overview of Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP) Pilot (00:46:51)**

c. **Review any new applications for EPC Public Member seats**

Moved/Seconded: Spath / Madugo **Action:** Moves to recommend to the KCSD Board of Directors Annette McCoubrey as a public member to the Emergency Preparedness Committee **Ayes:** Paul, Spath, Watt, Madugo, Blonz and Moss **Noes:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Gluck
Video Time Stamped: 01:49:54

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

7. ADJOURNMENT: Director Madugo adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

KCSD EPC Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2026

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Community Services District is scheduled for February 26, 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 February 26, 2026.

Attest: _____
Emergency Preparedness Committee Member



Item #05a

Kensington Community Services District

DATE: February 26, 2026

TO: Emergency Preparedness Committee

FROM: David Aranda, Interim General Manager
Mary A. Morris-Mayorga, Consultant

SUBJECT: Review 2026 EPC Work Plan Progress

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the final Board approved 2026 EPC Work Plan and receive any progress updates from the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Directors approved the 2026 EPC Work Plan on February 12, 2026 which added supporting a strong Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) partnership in Kensington.

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)



KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
Emergency Preparedness Committee
January 22, 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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of workshop
2. Create two grant tiers (small vs. large) for Board approval and initiate program for FY 2026-27.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved • 3/1 grant opens
3. Secure \$15k BOD approved funding and develop Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP) Pilot Program.	Blonz, McCoubrey (<i>pending</i>), Watt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15k approved • Develop mesh program
4. Increase coordination and awareness of vegetation removal program through Firewise leads, block presentations, and FPO inspections.	Madugo, Paul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas
5. Support Firewise leadership development and resident participation in Kensington Firewise Strategic Plan objectives.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
6. Determine next steps for Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
7. Reinforce the community's understanding of the Red Flag Day Banners and improve the community's understanding of WatchDuty to promote early pre-evacuation.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
8. Increase earthquake preparedness.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
9. Establish a strong CERT program partnership in Kensington.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD



Kensington Community Services District

February 26, 2026

Overview

The Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP) is a community wildfire protection and public awareness initiative developed by the Kensington Community Services District (KCSD) to address one of the most significant and often misunderstood wildfire risks: wind-driven embers.

Wildfire research and post-incident assessments consistently show that homes are most often lost when embers enter structures or ignite receptive fuels near homes—creating spot fires that multiply ember production and accelerate fire spread. KEEP is designed to help residents understand this risk and take practical, achievable steps to reduce vulnerability at both the individual household and neighborhood level.

Program Purpose and Approach

KEEP focuses on two core objectives:

- Preventing embers from entering homes, particularly through vents and other openings; and
- Reducing the conditions that generate embers and spot fires, including hazardous vegetation and flammable materials near structures.

At its core, KEEP is an education-first program. The distribution of materials is intentionally used as a catalyst to generate awareness, conversation, and cooperation among neighbors—reinforcing a shared responsibility for community safety.

Mesh Distribution Pilot

As part of its pilot phase, KEEP introduces a vent mesh distribution initiative, supported by \$15,000 in KCSD-approved funding, to provide ember-resistant mesh to qualifying Kensington residents. While not all residents will apply for or receive materials, the program is structured so that all residents benefit from the education, messaging, and awareness generated by the initiative.

To support this pilot in a way that is responsible, sustainable, and transparent, KEEP proposes using a single, integrated platform and product provided by Wildfire Defense Mesh (WDM)—a vendor currently supporting similar municipal programs, including the City of Berkeley.

Portal-Based Model

The Emergency Preparedness Committee and KEEP subcommittee carefully considered multiple program structures. Through these discussions, it became clear that the administrative effort required to manually size, track, order, reimburse, and distribute materials would create a substantial and largely invisible workload—drawing time and attention away from broader emergency preparedness efforts that benefit the entire community.

The portal model:

- Reduces administrative burden on staff
- Creates consistency and fairness in how requests are received and processed
- Allows the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to focus on education, outreach, and preparedness rather than on building a new tool to support this pilot program.

Program Development

KEEP was developed through a subcommittee of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, which conducted research, evaluated options, and held collaborative work sessions to shape this pilot phase. These sessions emphasized practicality, sustainability, and the importance of building a program that can evolve over time rather than overextending resources in its initial launch.

Program Scope and Future Expansion

KEEP is structured as a suite of ember-exclusion and home-hardening topics. While this pilot phase focuses on vent protection, future iterations may expand to include:

- Gutters
- Decks and attached wooden features
- Siding, roofs, and windows
- Other structural vulnerabilities associated with ember intrusion

Potential future outreach and collaboration efforts may include:

- Co-branded educational retail displays developed with Kensington Ace Hardware and Firesafe Kensington (FSK)
- Home-hardening vendor showcase events
- Firewise-led neighborhood gatherings focused on defensible space and home hardening through neighbor-to-neighbor collaboration

KCSD Role and Program Boundaries

KEEP operates under a material-only assistance model. KCSD serves as the program funder and steward but does not provide labor, installation services, warranties, or performance guarantees. Residents are responsible for installation and any related home retrofits.

KCSD does provide neutral education on available options—including information on the advantages and tradeoffs between 1/8-inch and 1/16-inch mesh—so residents can make informed decisions based on their individual circumstances.

Implementation Overview

Following KCSD Board approval, the program will proceed with:

- Launch of a public outreach and education campaign
- Online resident application intake
- Site visits conducted by the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to validate applications
- Subcommittee review and recommendation to advance qualifying applications
- KCSD Board approval of qualifying applicants
- Ordering and distribution of materials
- Follow-up and program reporting

Building a Culture of Preparedness

KEEP complements KCSD's Hazardous Vegetation Removal Reimbursement Program, which has successfully encouraged neighbor-driven action and collaboration across the community. Together, these programs help initiate conversations, reduce wildfire risk, and strengthen community ties—recognizing that wildfire resilience is built not through single actions, but through shared awareness and collective effort.

Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP)

Terms and Conditions

The Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (“KEEP”) is administered by the Kensington Community Services District (“KCSD” or “District”) to reduce wildfire risk by distributing ember-resistant mesh materials to eligible properties within Kensington. Participation in this program is subject to the following terms and conditions.

1. Program Purpose and Scope

KEEP provides ember-resistant metal mesh materials intended solely to reduce the risk of embers entering ventilation openings. The program provides materials only and does not include labor, installation, repairs, inspections, design assistance, or cost reimbursement.

2. Eligibility Requirements

1. The subject property must be located within the jurisdictional boundaries of KCSD.
2. The applicant must be the property owner or an authorized representative of the property owner.
3. Materials are limited to existing primary residential structures and ADUs.
4. Participation is limited to one application per parcel, unless otherwise approved by the District.
5. Ineligible Participants:
The following individuals are not eligible to participate in KEEP, either directly or indirectly:
 - Members of the KCSD Board of Directors
 - Members of the KCSD Emergency Preparedness Committee
 - Immediate household members of the above, where participation would result in a direct or indirect benefit or conflict.

3. Nature of Assistance – Materials Only

1. KEEP provides mesh materials only.
2. KCSD does not provide labor, installation, retrofits, repairs, measurements, inspections, or code compliance verification.
3. All labor, installation, permits, repairs, additional materials required to complete the installation, and associated costs are the sole responsibility of the property owner.

4. Measurement and Installation Responsibility

1. Applicants are solely responsible for:
 - Accurate measurements
 - Proper selection of quantities and specifications
2. KCSD relies exclusively on applicant-submitted information and:
 - Assumes no responsibility for incorrect measurements
 - Improper measurement or installation shall not constitute grounds for additional distribution.

5. Material Use Restrictions

1. Materials:
 - Are intended solely for ember exclusion purposes on vents
 - Must be installed only on the approved Kensington parcel
2. Materials may not be sold, transferred, exchanged, or returned for monetary value.
3. KCSD will request verification of installation.

Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP)

Terms and Conditions

6. Per-Parcel Limits

1. Mesh distribution per parcel shall not exceed the amount reasonably necessary to cover the existing ventilation openings on the property.
2. KCSD may cap material distribution based on square footage, number of openings, or wildfire exposure.
3. Requests exceeding limits may be reduced or denied, ensuring equitable distribution.

7. Funding Availability and Prioritization

1. Applying for this program does not guarantee a material award.
2. Distribution is subject to district-approved budget limits, inventory, and administrative capacity.
3. KCSD reserves the right to prioritize applications that provide the greatest community-wide wildfire risk-reduction benefit, based on factors including, but not limited to, Fire Hazard Severity Zone designation, defensible space conditions, and completion of Zone Zero mitigation measures by the property owner.

8. No Warranty; Limitation of Liability

1. KCSD takes no responsibility for the condition of materials.
2. KCSD makes no representation regarding performance, code compliance, or insurance eligibility.
3. KCSD shall not be liable for property damage, personal injury, or wildfire loss.

9. Indemnification and Hold Harmless

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the applicant agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless KCSD, its directors, officers, employees, agents, committee members, and volunteers from and against all claims, demands, damages, losses, liabilities, costs, or expenses, including attorneys' fees, arising out of or related to participation in KEEP.

10. Program Modification or Termination

KCSD reserves the right to modify, suspend, or terminate KEEP at any time for funding, policy, or operational reasons.

11. Applicant Certification

By submitting the following application, the applicant certifies that all information provided is accurate and agrees to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.



Kensington Ember Exclusion Program

KEEP

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

01

Increase community awareness of how wind-driven wildfire embers ignite homes—often without direct flame contact.

02

Educate residents on the benefits of installing ember exclusion mesh over soffit, attic and foundation vents.

03

Implement a targeted ember-resistant mesh distribution program to strengthen wildfire resilience.

04

Identify common ember entry points in residential structures to reduce ignition vulnerability.



PUBLIC MESSAGING

- Embers are the leading cause of home ignition during wildfires. Wind-driven embers can travel long distances and ignite spot fires throughout a community ahead of the main fire.
- When embers enter a home, the risk of structure loss increases dramatically.
- Embers that slip through vents or settle on dry vegetation, debris, or other receptive fuels contribute to structure ignition.



Wind-Driven Wildfires: The Ember Threat

- During wind-driven wildfires, embers can travel several miles ahead of the main fire. When these burning embers land on easily ignitable materials, they create small “spot fires” that allow the wildfire to spread rapidly and unpredictably.
- Most homes do not ignite from direct flames. They ignite when wind-blown embers enter attic or crawlspace vents and start fires inside the structure — often before the main fire ever reaches the property.
- Embers can also ignite dry vegetation, mulch, patio furniture, doormats, and other combustible items around the home. These small ignitions can quickly escalate, making homes far more vulnerable.
- **Understanding the ember threat is the first step in protecting your home.**



Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP)

01

KCSD provides funds for mesh, approved \$15,000.

02

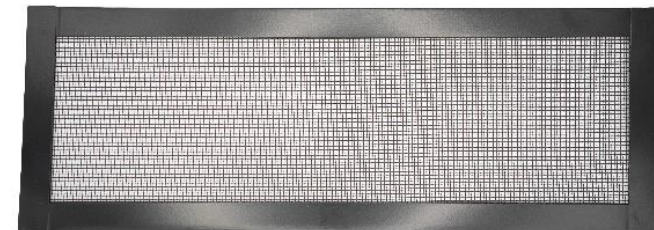
KCSD develops the program (resident input through the Emergency Preparedness Committee) and manages the program.

03

KCSD provides guidance to residents, leverages Firesafe Kensington for additional support and guidance.



- Wildfire Defense Mesh is currently used in Berkeley & Moraga/Orinda
- Listed on the State Fire Marshal's Building Material List
- Is launching a robust community engagement platform for procurement
- Prefabricated with framing
- Black or white mesh choices available





NEW PROGRAM LAUNCH: Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP)

Wind-driven embers are one of the leading causes of home ignition during wildfires — and now Kensington residents have a new way to reduce that risk.

The Kensington Ember Exclusion Program (KEEP) provides ember-resistant metal mesh materials to help residents protect vulnerable attic and crawlspace vents from ember intrusion.

Applications open: April 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026

Eligibility: Residential properties within Kensington

Materials only (installation is homeowner-managed)

Learn more and apply at:

www.kensingtonfire.org/keep

Public Education & Communication

- Mesh sizing pros and cons between 1/8” and 1/16”
- Labor Resources List provided through Firesafe Kensington
- Correct installation ensures a proper seal with fire-resistant caulk
- Residents should do their research on what is the best solution for their needs.
- KEEP provides information to assist residents with their decisions but does not encompass all the choices available.
- There is a growing variety of products available to residents.
- Safety messages: wear protective equipment, ladder safety



Public Education & Communication

- Outlook (April 2026)
- Fire Plug (April 2026)
- Email Announcement
- KCSD Newsletter
- Social Media
- Firewise / Firesafe Kensington Network Announcement



Registration / Application Platform

Content on this page is a mock version of the platform- verbiage subject to change.

The mockup features a dark background with a light-colored header. On the left, the text 'EVENT HOSTED BY Kensington CA' is displayed next to a small logo. On the right, a badge indicates 'In official partnership with Wildfire Defenders™'. Below the header, a button reads 'Community Program Open'. The main heading is 'Protecting communities from wildfires, together', with 'together' in red. Below this, a paragraph states: 'Wildfire Defense Mesh is on a mission to empower Kensington, CA with the tools and resources to confront wildfire threats — and strengthen community resilience.' To the right is a video player showing an illustration of diverse people shaking hands, with a play button overlay. Below the video is the text 'Watch: How Community Protection Works'. On the left, a counter shows '20 Neighbors Joined' next to a red 'Join Now' button with a downward arrow.

EVENT HOSTED BY
Kensington CA

In official partnership with Wildfire Defenders™

Community Program Open

Protecting communities from wildfires, together

Wildfire Defense Mesh is on a mission to empower Kensington, CA with the tools and resources to confront wildfire threats — and strengthen community resilience.

20
Neighbors Joined

Join Now ↓

Watch: How Community Protection Works



EVENT HOSTED BY
Kensington CA



In official partnership with **Wildfire Defenders™**

TAKE ACTION

Register Your Home Today

Protect your home and help protect your neighbors.



Program Open

Registration now open

● EVENT DETAILS



Date & Time
Date TBD



Location
Kensington, CA

What You'll Receive

- ✓ Discounted ember-resistant mesh materials
- ✓ Expert installation guidance
- ✓ Protection for your home and neighborhood

Register Your Home

Enter your details to calculate materials needed.

Step 1 of 3

Contact

Your Name

John Smith

Email Address

john@example.com

Phone Number (optional)

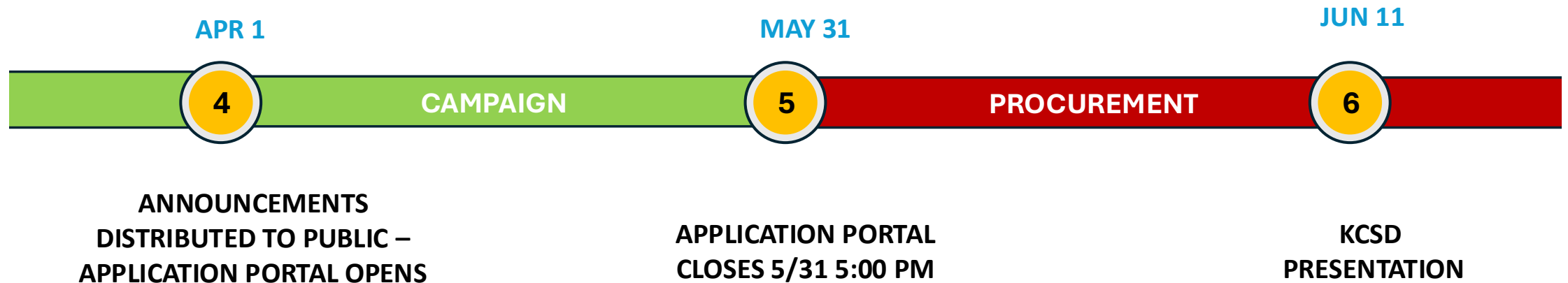
(555) 123-4567

Content on this page is a mock version of the platform- verbiage subject to change.

KEEP Development & Launch Timeline



KEEP Development & Launch Timeline



KEEP Development & Launch Timeline

