

KPPCSD Update

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District

Talking Traffic!

Contra Costa County’s senior traffic engineer, **Monish Sen**, **Kate Rauch** from Supervisor John Gioia’s office and Interim Chief of Police **Rickey Hull** met with residents on Thurs., Sept. 20 to discuss concerns and obtain a better understanding the responsibilities of various agencies in traffic calming efforts. A summary of comment and responses will be posted on our website.

Coffee with a Cop

Meet the KPD (Kensington Police Department) **Wed., Oct. 3, 1 pm, Inn Kensington**, 293 Arlington Avenue. Chat one-on-one, share your concerns and find out more about policing in Kensington. A great opportunity for caffeine and community building!



Measure G Election

At the November 6 election, Kensington voters will be asked whether to approve **Measure G**, establishing an “appropriations limit” for the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District for the next four years. **Measure G does not increase any Kensington tax or fee.** Rather, it merely allows the District to continue to spend revenues the District already receives so that it may continue to provide the same level of police protection and other services to Kensington residents.

The District was required to place Measure G on the ballot because of Article XIII B of the California Constitution, enacted in 1979 as part

of Proposition 4. That constitutional provision restricts government spending by setting an annual appropriations (spending) limit. This appropriations limit is also known as the “Gann limit.” The California Constitution authorizes voters to change this appropriations limit for a maximum period of four years at a time. Unless the voters do so, the District may not be able to spend all of the revenues it receives.

Kensington voters have on several occasions in past years approved measures increasing the Gann Limit for the District, most recently in 2014.

— *Randy Riddle, Of Counsel, Renne Public Law Group, On behalf of KPPCSD*

Results of Food Compost Survey

This spring, the District surveyed residents on whether to include weekly pickups of food waste. Because food waste must be picked up weekly, this will result in an increase from our current 24 pickups by-monthly pickups for green waste to 52 pickups. If enacted by January 2019, this increased service would result 10% increase in garbage fees for the 7% increase for the additional pickups plus the 3% allowed under the contract with Bay View. The District sent the survey to residents because of concern that draft regulations, if adopted as expected, would require increased diversion of organic waste and concern that the

nearby compost facility would not have capacity if we delayed. A longer explanation of this proposal and the survey results can be found on our website at www.kppcsd.org.

Of the approximately 2,200 survey cards sent out with the Bay View May invoice, 779 responses were received. The results showed that 65% of respondents want the expanded service while 32% did not and 3% were not responsive. The District will examine this expanded service at our September 13 meeting. A longer explanation of this proposal and the survey results can be found on our website at www.kppcsd.org.

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Improved Meeting Interface on the New KPPCSD Website

Our KPPCSD website (www.kppcsd.org) has several improvements of note. The old site had a “Meeting Archives” section, with various documents and videos listed separately. With no centralized listing, it was difficult to find everything related to a single meeting without much time and effort. Making matter worse, our old site was not searchable!

Now all information about a single meeting (agenda, minutes, video and supporting documents) will be under one tab. In addition, we’ve started going back and adding older meetings to the new system. This work will take a bit of time to complete, but once done will be very user friendly!

Another improvement is that the home page will now automatically show the dates of the next 3 upcoming meetings. To find information about a specific meeting, choose the following menu options: **Governance -> Meetings** (see *Figure 1*).

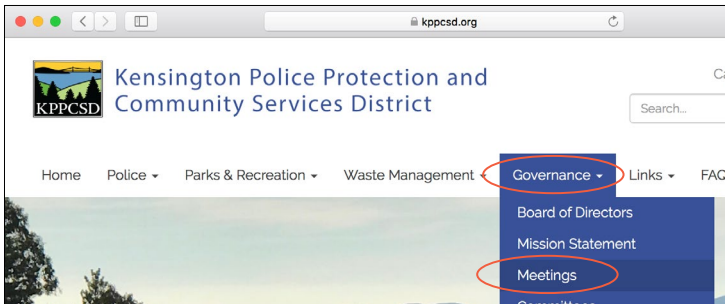


Figure 1

At the Meetings page, select the type of meeting you are interested in: the Board, the Finance Committee, the Parks Committee, etc. A few meetings will be shown on this page, but it’s just a preview. To see the complete list, select the type of meeting you want. For example, to see all the KPPCSD board meetings select KPPCSD Board Meetings. You’ll then see a screen like on *Figure 2*.

Select a year, and the page will show you all the meetings for that year. Once you’ve chosen the year, you can then select a specific meeting. March 8, 2018 is shown in *Figure 3*.



Figure 2

Each meeting may have an agenda, a video, approved minutes, and any documents related to the agenda. Meetings that occurred before the new site went live (January 2018) may not have all of the same information. For instance, most past agendas have the agenda and associated documents in one large file. Recent meetings have both a combined agenda packet and separate files for each agenda item. The agendas (and most associated documents) are now text-based PDF files instead of scans of printed documents. **This makes it much easier to search the contents, takes far less time to download, and displays at much higher quality.** Quite an improvement!



Figure 3

Permit Approved for Community Center Improvements

Following KPPCSD direction to develop a plan for required seismic strengthening, accessibility and energy efficiency improvements to our Community Center, architects with Glass Associates Inc., created detailed construction drawings. On July 31st, the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC) recommended approval of the plan, and on August 20th, the County Department of Conservation and Development

did just that. Currently, we are in the middle of a month-long “plan check” process to determine if any modifications are necessary. At the same time, the District is preparing bid documents and a bid announcement. The bid period is anticipated to commence in October and run into November. Once the District has selected a contractor, construction can begin. We look forward to using our renovated space in 2019.

School Drop-Off Simplified!

Parents bringing children to the north side of **Hilltop School** will now see clarified signage at Highland and Arlmont. Parents can pull over on Highland to drop off children but cannot park. Short-time parking will be allowed on Arlmont to walk children to school. The County will be striping the crosswalk on Arlmont to be more visible.

Who to Call?

Kensington is unincorporated and, as such, many functions that are normally the responsibilities of cities are split among several different government agencies. Both the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District and the Kensington Fire Protection District are Special Districts with limited responsibilities. The KPPCSD has responsibility for only three functions:

(1) police services (2) community services and (3) providing garbage services. It has no authority for managing/maintaining roads or issuing building/encroachment permits for construction. The KPPCSD is rarely contacted by other agencies when they issue permits. In addition, while the KPPCSD has authority to enforce traffic laws, the County has sole authority on traffic signals and signs, speed limits, traffic barriers and crosswalks.

The list below has the contact information for government agencies responsible for these other services.

Contra Costa County: The County has authority for most other services. Please copy **Kate Rauch** (*Kate.Rauch@bos.cccounty.us*) of **Supervisor John Gioia's** office (*John.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us*) on requests to the County.

- **Animal Services:** (925) 608-8400 (24 Hours), www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/59/Animal-Services
- **Road Maintenance:** **Jerry Fahy**, Contra Costa County Transportation Engineering, (925) 313-2276, jerry.fahy@pw.cccounty.us
- **Road Safety:** **Monish Sen**, Transportation Engineering, (925) 313-2187, monish.sen@pw.cccounty.us. The County will also issue citations to home owners to trim trees and shrubbery that obstruct views while driving.
- **Building Permits:** **Contra Costa County Building Permits**, 30 Muir Road, Martinez, (925) 674-7200, www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/4781/Building-Permits

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD): EBMUD is responsible for water supply within Kensington. If you see a water line leaking, call EBMUD at (866) 403-2683 to report a main break or hydrant leak. Construction projects in their service area appear on their website.

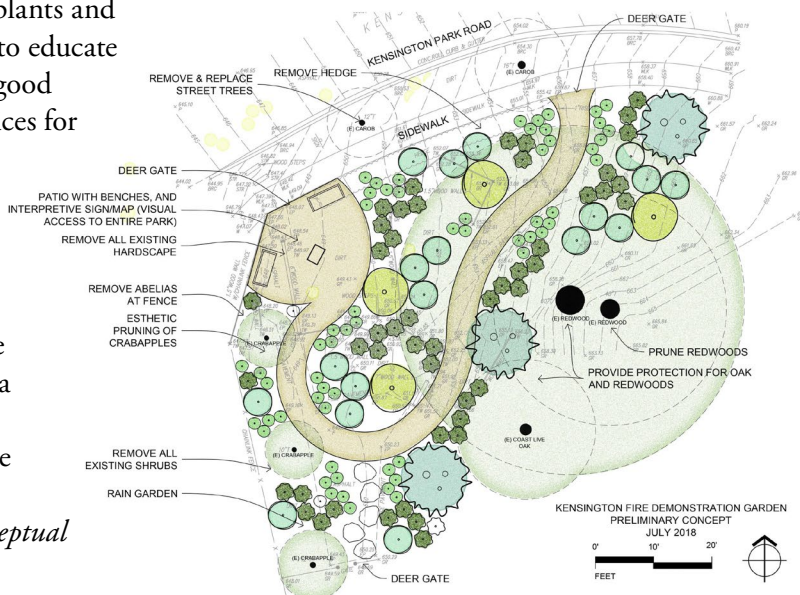
Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E): PG&E is responsible for maintaining electrical and natural gas lines in Kensington. If you smell natural gas, see downed power lines, or suspect another emergency situation, leave the area immediately and call 9-1-1. Then, call PG&E at (800) 743-5000. You can also sign up on their website for alerts on power outages in your area.

Stege Sanitary District: Stege maintains the sanitary sewer system in Kensington. They have a 24-hour emergency line — (510) 524-4667 — and they have a list of registered plumbers on their website. During normal business hours, call (510) 524-4668.

First Look at Plans for Fire-wise Demonstration Garden

The **Kensington Fire District** has begun working with a landscape architect to design the **fire-wise demonstration garden** that will transform the forlorn and neglected corner of Kensington Park adjacent to the library's small staff parking lot. The garden will provide examples

of fire-resistant plants and include signage to educate residents about good gardening practices for our community, which is located in a zone deemed to be at "very high risk" for wildfire by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. (See *preliminary conceptual plan at right.*)



How to Contact Us

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Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District

217 Arlington Avenue
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(510) 526-4141 Office
(510) 236-0474 Dispatch
911 Emergency

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 591

Two Ways to Get Information



Nixle: The KPPCSD uses Nixle to inform residents of emergencies in our local area such as public safety threats and dangerous weather, as well as traffic advisories and community events. Information is key, and we strongly encourage you to sign up to receive email and/or text message alerts. **You can do so at nixle.com or by texting your zip code to 888777.**

CWS: Contra Costa County has a Community Warning System (CWS) that will provide emergency alerts for life threatening incidents in the county. The CWS can alert residents and businesses that are impacted or are in danger of being impacted by emergencies through a variety of notification tools. The CWS message will include basic information about the incident and what specific protective actions (shelter in place, lockdown, evacuate, avoid the area, etc.) are necessary to protect life and health.

The CWS is generally not used for traffic notifications, red flag warning notifications, or other non-life threatening incidents. To register your land and/or cell phone or find out about any current alerts, please go to <https://cwsalerts.com/registration/>.

First Phase of Police Services Study Completed

In January, the District contracted Matrix Consulting Group to conduct a thorough two-part analysis of current police services and alternative approaches to service delivery. The finding of Phase 1, which examined the service needs of the community and the operations of Kensington's police department, were presented at the May 24th District board meeting.

Kensington remains an extremely safe community. Between 2012 and 2016, there was virtually no violent crime. Property crimes, while more numerous, decreased by a third. In 2017, there was an average of four calls for police service daily. Most requests are for quality of life issues and minor crimes. The most frequent calls are for citizen assist, alarms and abandoned vehicles, accounting for approximately 600 calls annually, another 200 involved suspicious persons, vandalism and disturbing the peace. Midnight to 8 am is the quietest time for calls for service, and 9 am to 11 am the busiest.

Kensington police officers have an extraordinary amount of proactive time, 81% overall, when they are not responding to calls. As the name implies, during this time officers should be engaged in community policing

activities such as patrolling, traffic enforcement, speaking with residents and resolving neighborhood issues.

As a very small police agency, Kensington suffers from staffing and operational difficulties not experienced by larger counterparts. In addition to recruitment, retention and staffing issues, Matrix identified other challenges including lower than average salaries and deficiencies in strategic planning, training and equipment.

Matrix estimated the *additional* annual cost to meet current small town police agency standards and best practices would be \$1.025 million if officer salaries were raised to neighboring agency standards, and \$692,000 without raising pay.

Matrix is expected to deliver the Phase 2 of the study, an evaluation of the feasibility of various alternatives for police services delivery based on criteria identified through community input, this fall.

Our community needs to understand the challenges we face in providing police services and make decisions based on these findings. The full Matrix Consulting Group Phase 1 Report and May 24th presentation slides are on the KPPCSD website.

Want to Be in the Know? Please sign up for the agenda mailing list. Click on "Governance" at www.kppcsd.org. Scroll down to "Agenda Mailing List." Fill out the electronic form and be notified about meeting dates and times.