



Item #10

## Kensington Community Services District

DATE: December 11, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: David Aranda, Interim General Manager (IGM)

SUBMITTED AND  
PRESENTED BY: Johnny Valenzuela, Consultant/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

SUBJECT: Building a Unified Fire Prevention Network: Roles, Collaboration, and Community Impact

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### BACKGROUND:

The IGM thought it would be helpful for the board to have a brief presentation that would assist in understanding the various relationships between different organizations that play a key role in assisting Kensington to be fire safe.

I asked Johnny Valenzuela to present this information to the board.

### EXHIBIT(S)

- Building a United Prevention Network



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### Summary

The Kensington Community Services District (KCSD) is in a pivotal position to strengthen wildfire preparedness, home hardening, and community resilience across Kensington. Over the last two years, Kensington has built significant momentum through the emergency preparedness program through the rapid expansion of Firewise communities. To continue this progress and prepare the district for future strategic success, this presentation introduces a unified framework for how KCSD, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Firewise Communities, and Firesafe Kensington (the newly formed nonprofit Fire Safe Council) will work together.

### Purpose of the Network

The unified fire prevention network is designed to:

- Improve coordination across agencies and volunteer leaders.
- Expand capacity for community-wide outreach and program delivery.
- Increase participation in home hardening, vegetation mitigation, and block-level preparedness.
- Address systemic gaps that neither government entities nor volunteer groups can fill alone.

### Roles Within the Framework

#### **KCSD**

KCSD serves as the strategic governing body, responsible for oversight, accountability, and funding of district-wide emergency preparedness initiatives. KCSD sets expectations, allocates resources, and connects regional partners—ensuring that all fire-prevention efforts align with community needs and regulatory standards.

#### **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (EPC)**

The EPC functions as the central integrator across all entities, coordinating planning, communication, program execution, and strategic initiatives. The EPC provides direct support to Firewise leaders, manages district-issued programs, and ensures consistency and alignment across neighborhood-level efforts, nonprofit projects, and district priorities.

### **Kensington Firewise Communities**

Kensington Firewise communities serve as neighborhood-level engines of engagement. With over 20 Firewise communities recognized, Firewise leaders help deliver block-by-block education, improve the EPC local outreach, and help residents identify mitigation actions. These leaders offer valuable insight into community needs and enable two-way communication between KCSD and individual neighborhoods.

### **Firesafe Kensington**

As a nonprofit Fire Safe Council, Firesafe Kensington brings capabilities that government agencies cannot provide—grant eligibility, fundraising, volunteer mobilization, and operational agility. Firesafe Kensington can lead large-scale mitigation projects, support Firewise communities with materials and tools, expand public education efforts, and serve as a flexible partner to KCSD.

### How These Entities Work Together

This model creates a collaborative ecosystem that maximizes each entity's strengths:

- **KCSD** provides authority, structure, and funding.
- **EPC** aligns strategies, manages programs, and bridges communication.
- **Firewise** organizes neighbors, builds grassroots participation, and drives local action.
- **Firesafe Kensington** amplifies capacity, secures independent funding, and manages volunteers and mitigation projects.

Together, these entities create a scalable, sustainable, and community-driven approach to wildfire risk reduction and emergency preparedness.

Kensington now has one of the strongest foundations for wildfire preparedness in the region. By formally recognizing and supporting this unified network, KCSD can improve program effectiveness, expand public participation, and build a culture of resilience that protects lives, homes, and the community at large.

# Building a United Fire Prevention Network



# KENSINGTON UNIFIED FIRE PREVENTION NETWORK



## Kensington Community Services District (KCSD)

- Sets strategy, oversight, funding, public safety agency resources



## Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

- Coordinates programs & outreach

## VOLUNTEER DRIVEN



- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit
- Firesafe Council
- Eligible to pursue grants
- Comprised of a Board of Directors



- Block engagement
- Resident action
- Participation supports Firesafe grant applications
- Firewise leads have close coordination with Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

**FSK**  
FIRESAFE KENSINGTON



**KENSINGTON  
FIREWISE**







**MAYBECK FIREWISE - Measure X Chipping Day**



**Edgemoor Community Measure X Chipping  
Measure X Funded Treatment on Cerrito Canyon  
KFPD Hazardous Vegetation Removal Participation**

# COLUMBIA AVE BLOCK PARTY

