

MEETING OF THE

**East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC)*
Monday, July 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PDT**

**El Cerrito City Hall, Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530**

PROPOSED MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:04am.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present

1. Alameda County: Supervisor Elisa Marquez
2. Contra Costa County: Supervisor John Gioia
3. City of Berkeley: Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf (Chair)
4. City of El Cerrito: Councilmember Paul Fadelli
5. City of Oakland: Councilmember Janani Ramachandran (Vice Chair)
6. City of Richmond: Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin
7. Rodeo-Hercules FPD: Board Vice Chair Marie Bowman

Fire Chiefs Present

Contra Costa County (Chief Lewis Broschard & Fire Marshal Chris Bachman)
Alameda County (Chief William McDonald)
City of Berkeley (Interim Deputy Chief Colin Arnold)
City of El Cerrito (Chief Eric Saylor)
City of Oakland (Chief Damon Covington)
City of Richmond (Interim Chief Michael Smith)

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM MEETING OF APRIL 29

The Chair communicated one change to the minutes to mark Marie Bowman as present (non-voting due to her participation via Zoom from a private location).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION: Motion by Gioia, seconded by Fadelli to approve minutes with noted change.

VOTE: 7-0-0: Passed unanimously ([see this link](#))

3. APPROVE NEW MEMBERS

* In agenda item #4 members agreed to adopt the trade name East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC) instead of the non-descriptive legal moniker: Wildfire Prevention Coordinating Group (WPCG).

The Kensington Fire Protection District did not approve the MOU at its most recent meeting. Therefore, the City of Pinole represented by Mayor Maureen Toms is the only new jurisdiction to join at this meeting.

Once the organization has a Fiscal Agent, only the Fiscal Agent's signature is needed to formally accept new members. In the absence of a Fiscal Agent, the Board is required to take a motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION: Motion by Wengraf, seconded by Bowman: *Recognizing the ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding for Coordination of Wildfire Prevention Activities to Protect the East Bay Hills in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties by its governing body, and in the absence of a Fiscal Agent, the Participating Agencies hereby welcome the City of Pinole, represented by Mayor Maureen Toms, to be an official Participating Agency.*

VOTE: 7-0-0: Passed unanimously

4. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Chair Wengraf proposed a more descriptive name for the group: the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments, using the acronym EBWC. According to legal advice, the organization use any 'trade name' it wishes as long as the moniker is adopted by the members.

PUBLIC COMMENT: One member of the public provided comment.

ACTION: Motion by Toms, seconded by Ramachandran to approve the new trade name for the organization: the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC).

VOTE: 8-0-0: Passed unanimously

5. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Fire Departments: Chief Eric Saylor (El Cerrito) & Interim Deputy Chief Colin Arnold (Berkeley) presented. [See this link.](#)
- B. Native Plant Society and Sierra Club: Norman La Force (Sierra Club) & Jim Hanson (California Native Plant Society, East Bay) presented. [See this link.](#)
- C. East Bay FireSafe Alliance: Henry DeNero (Berkeley FireSafe Council) & Jon Kaufman (Claremont Canyon Conservancy) & Soheila Bana (West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council) presented. [See this link.](#)

Members asked questions and discussed the presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Seven members of the public provided comments.

NO ACTION

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Lisa Jacobs reported that approximately \$10,000 remains at the Oakland Firesafe Council's bank account from community-raised funding to support the creation of the EBWC. This amount does not include the \$16,000 still to be received from the City of Oakland and the Bay Area Council Economics Institute. In addition, OFSC has identified an anonymous donor to provide additional funds. Ms. Jacobs encouraged the group to consider financing and strategy development as a joint goal given that the organization cannot consider programs until identifies ongoing funding. Contra Costa County has expressed openness to consider having the CCCFD act as fiscal agent for the EBWC; a meeting with relevant officials is scheduled later in July.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NO ACTION

7. REGIONAL ADVISORY BODY

Chair Wengraf proposed inviting Regional Advisory Partners to provide input to the EBWC. The entities to invite included East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), UC Berkeley, East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories (LBNL), Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, East Bay FireSafe Alliance, and the Diablo FireSafe Council.

Members discussed the idea and were generally in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NO ACTION

8. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The proposed meeting dates of September 9, October 7, and November 4 did not work for many members. Chair Wengraf / Placeworks will follow up with members to identify and announce the dates for EBWC meetings in 2024.

Chair Wengraf announced that she will work Vice Chair Ramachandran and two Contra Costa County EBWC members to develop strategic planning options for the EBWC to consider at its next meeting, in the form of a one- or two-pager to keep it simple. Supervisor Gioia and Councilmember McLaughlin volunteered to participate.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NO ACTION

9. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Two members of the public provided comments.

10. MEMBER COMMENTS

One EBWC member provided comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 pm