



HILLS EMERGENCY FORUM

Annual Report 2013



**City of Berkeley
City of El Cerrito
City of Oakland
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
East Bay Municipal Utility District
East Bay Regional Park District
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Moraga Orinda Fire District
University of California at Berkeley**



HEF Mission

The mission of the Hills Emergency Forum is to coordinate the collection, assessment and sharing of information on East Bay hills fire hazards and further, to provide a forum for building interagency consensus on the development of fire safety standards and codes, incident response and management protocols, public education programs, multi-jurisdictional training, and fuel reduction strategies.

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October 18, 2013

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Hills Emergency Forum, I am pleased to report on the twenty-first year of Forum activities. The Hills Emergency Forum was formed in October 1992 in direct response to the need for a coordinated regional approach to emergency preparedness and response related to urban wildland interface fires.

We continue to strengthen and expand our collaborative partnerships. This past year we worked with the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to encourage a rule change to resolve apparent conflicts between the Forest Practice act and removal of eucalyptus and Monterey pine trees for fire hazard reduction. We continue to discuss with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District the impact of their open burn fees on the use of prescribed fire. In August, we had the opportunity to share lessons learned with 20 participants from around the world through a field tour as a part of the three-week US Forest Service International Disaster Management Seminar.

Members' fuel mitigation projects throughout the East Bay hills have expanded our system of strategic fuel reduction zones through use of goats, hand crews, machinery, as well as cable logging techniques and controlled burns. Future projects are undergoing environmental review and bring with them FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants and Measure CC funds to supplement local agency budgets.

The 2013 Annual Report serves to document the positive changes our agencies have brought to the Oakland-Berkeley Hills region. This report highlights the efforts of both Hills Emergency Forum and individual member agencies during the past year. We recognize that our work is by no means completed.

On behalf of all the members of the Forum, I would like to thank the many individuals and organizations whose support and input have enabled us to advance our agenda of emergency preparedness. We welcome your participation and comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Hanin", is written over a light blue background.

Scott Hanin, City Manager
City of El Cerrito
HEF Chair 2012-2013

❖ City of Berkeley ❖ City of El Cerrito ❖ City of Oakland
❖ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ❖ East Bay Municipal Utility District
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2013 Highlights

1. Sustained Multi-agency Partnership to Manage East Bay Hills Fire Risk.
 - Interagency issues and collaboration with other agencies
 - Partnerships to reduce fire hazards with youth crews lead by Civicorps and groups such as Friends of Beaconsfield, Claremont Canyon Conservancy, Diablo Fire Safe Council, Garber Park Stewards, Kensington Fuel Reduction Group, Park Hills neighborhood.
2. Mitigation Planning, Environmental Review and Research
 - Environmental review process “Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction, East Bay Hills, CA Environmental Impact Statement” to move forward FEMA grants.
 - East Bay Fuel Inventory Photo Series.
3. Vegetation Management
 - Proposed rule change Board of Forestry
 - EBRPD: Eucalyptus and flammable brush fields removed in East Bay hill parks.
 - EBMUD: second growth eucalyptus thinning; brush removal, mechanical mowing; native grassland enhancement.
 - UC Berkeley: Monterey pine, eucalyptus sprouts and broom control, as well as hazardous tree removal near Lawrence Hall of Science and UC Botanical Garden.
 - Fuel Reduction by goats on EBMUD, EBRPD, LBNL, Oakland and UC Berkeley parcels through the hills
 - Fuel removal projects by CAL FIRE/ CDC, Civicorps and private contractor hand crews on El Cerrito, EBRPD and Oakland parcels.
 - On going maintenance of previous fuel reduction project areas.
4. Prescribed Burn Program
 - Prescribed fire (pile burns and resource management burns) in Wildcat Canyon, Redwood, Sibley and Tilden Regional Parks. Planning and field prep for future work.
 - Partnered with Civicorps “Grizzly” hand crew to conduct fuels reduction work and assist with prescribed burns.
 - Open Burning Fee Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
5. Outreach, Training, Emergency Exercises and Communications
 - Updated website: www.hillsemergencyforum.org.
 - Field tour US Forest Service International Disaster Management Seminar.
 - Emergency Management Exercises and Multi-agency Drills.

I.0 Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) Overview

I.1 2013 Highlights

The primary mission of the HEF continues to be to provide a sustainable framework for interagency communication, joint planning and coordinated response to the needs of our various constituents. The organization's goals, developed over the years and grouped into the four areas of Assessment, Mitigation, Preparedness and Response, continue to serve as milestones for our collective efforts. However, many of these goals are now in a "maintenance" mode as evidenced by the proposed 2014 Work Plan.

The highlights of our work during 2013 include:

Sustainability and Funding

One of the on-going challenges faced by members is funding and implementing fuel reduction projects. The HEF continues to explore ways to make the forum sustainable, including pursuing additional funding mechanisms.

Oakland Regional Fuel Management Project FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM 06)

Led by the Oakland Fire Department, a regional fuel management program was submitted to the highly competitive Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. The application was prepared collaboratively with East Bay Regional Park District and University of California Berkeley. The grant was selected as one of the top California applications and forwarded to Washington DC for final competition. In June 2006, FEMA announced the Oakland project as one of the national finalists.

This past year the group has continued working closely with FEMA on environmental compliance for four grants. UC Berkeley has two pending FEMA PDM grants from 2005 for Claremont Canyon and Strawberry Canyon fuel reduction projects. The third grant is the City of Oakland led regional fuel management program. A fourth grant was added to the review process with a East Bay Regional Park project focused on treatment of brush to reduce fuel loads (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, HMGP 2009). In 2010, FEMA began the environmental review process with a notice of intent in June and public scoping meeting in late August. HEF SLC members met with Senator Feinstein's staff and worked with Department of Homeland Security and FEMA headquarters to assist in the forward movement of the environmental review.

This past year HEF members have continued to work with FEMA with further data collection, analysis and planning. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released in May with three public meetings. Comments were accepted in person, by mail and electronically until June 17, 2013. FEMA has been coordinating with many of the other interested Federal Partners including: National Park Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Land Management and US Fish and Wildlife Service. In May 2013, US Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion for the proposed project. FEMA anticipates they will take an additional 4 months to prepare the response to the 3,751 comments received. The Final EIS document will respond to comments, amend portions of the DEIS and will then be issued a Record of Decision (ROD). Currently, FEMA plans on issuing a ROD by the end of 2013. A ROD, authorizing release of funds, will be supported by California Environmental Quality Act compliance documents completed by each sub-grantee, based on existing plans or new studies tiered from the DEIS. Once environmental compliance is complete the regional fuel management project will move to the next phases:

- Final project scope and funding level. The grant applications identified for removal significant numbers of the non-native, flammable eucalyptus trees in four areas of the North Oakland hills. The project areas will enhance and extend the ridgetop fuel breaks established after the 1991 fire to both reduce the fuel load and provide containment/ staging areas.
- Cumulatively, the three-year projects (PDM 05, 06 and HMPG 1731) are slated to be funded at \$4.5 million Federal funds, with \$1.5 million matching funds from the three partners, according to land ownership.

EBRPD Measure CC Funding

In 2010, the East Bay Regional Park District adopted the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan and the accompanying California Environmental Quality Act document covering approximately 3,000 acres of recommended fuels treatment areas within the East Bay hills and shoreline parks from Richmond to Castro Valley. The District continues to move forward with planning and implementing fuels management on several sites within this Measure CC area. In 2013, the District's Fire Department will have treated over 800 acres using contractors, crews, and goats, including brush reduction and eucalyptus stand thinning.

Interagency Issues and Collaboration with Other Agencies

New faces, Retirements, Relocations and Promotions. 2013 has seen many staff changes in the HEF Staff Liaison Committee due to the retirement of two fire chiefs, command staff and others. The SLC has welcomed many new faces resulting from promotions and new hires into the collaborative efforts of the Hills Emergency Forum.

Collaboration with other organizations. HEF members have a long history of collaborating with Fire Chief organizations including the Alameda County Fire Chiefs Association and Contra Costa County Fire Chiefs Association. This year HEF members also continued their activities with local groups, and State and Federal Agencies. The group regularly outreaches to collaborate with potential partners with similar missions of fire safety, as well as assist other agencies to understand our unique fire related issues.

Alameda County Fire Chiefs and Contra Costa County Fire Chiefs Associations: HEF members continue to be active with these two organizations. During 2103 they coordinated review of the FEMA EIS and comment on the proposed open burning fee proposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Civcorps: Over the years, many HEF members have contracted with Civcorps (formerly East Bay Conservation Corps) for crews for fuel reduction projects. In 2013, EBRPD used portions of a \$600,000 grant from Department of Labor to fund Civcorps crew training and fieldwork. The 8 to 10 person hand crew continued to enhance the existing fuel breaks by cutting, piling, and burning 1-hour and 10-hour fuels in Redwood Park, Anthony Chabot Park, Leona Open Space, Tilden Park, and Wildcat Canyon Park. Additionally, a 6 to 10 person Civcorps crew was funded through a Proposition 84 funded grant to expand the fuel break in Sibley and Anthony Chabot.

The El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department also has been using the Civcorps crew for pinpoint, strategic fuel reduction projects within their jurisdiction. These projects have been



initiated and sponsored by community groups and have been funded, coordinated and facilitated through the Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) and the El Cerrito/ Kensington Fire Departments. This partnership has proven to be cost efficient and beneficial in reducing the strategic fuel loads in critical high risk fire areas.

National Weather Service: The Monterey Forecast Office of the National Weather Service provides HEF members vital fire weather updates several times a day that are instrumental in developing local urban interface and wildfire response plans. For more information on fire weather updates see www.wrh.noaa.gov/Monterey/. Area wide outlooks and updates of seasonal predictions can also be found at the Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (ONCC) gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/outlooks/index.htm. In April 2013, Predictive Services in their National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook, reported that the fire potential would increase to above normal over northern California with drier fuels and an earlier fire season due to moderate drought.

Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Wildland/ Urban Interface Committee: The NorCal FPO is a section of California Fire Chiefs Association with the local WUI committee interested in wildland urban interface fire prevention. HEF members continue to collaborate with this group for training and other programs.

California 2010 Draft Strategic Fire Plan: In February 2010 the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection presented a draft of their 2010 Strategic Fire Plan for California. The plan, adopted June 2012, includes a vision, goals and objectives for the next ten years. The seven goals are aimed at protection of lives, property and natural resources from wildland fire, as well as improvement of environmental resiliency. For each goal a number of objectives are identified. For the adopted plan see cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/fireplan/fpupload/fpppdf668.pdf.

International Association of Fire Chiefs' (IAFC)/ Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers: In the fall of 2009, the IAFC formally adopted the "Ready, Set, Go!" program whose purpose is to teach individuals who live in high risk wildfire areas and the wildland urban interface how to best prepare themselves and their properties against fire. It focuses on preparing for the fire threat, having situational awareness when a fire occurs, and leaving the area early and safety when evacuation is appropriate. The program has also been adopted by Cal Fire and several local fire agencies including the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. The Ready, Set Go! website is located at www.Wildlandfirersg.org. The neighbors in the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood of Orinda are working with the Moraga Orinda Fire District to become Contra Costa County's first recognized Firewise community.

Claremont Canyon Conservancy: HEF members continue to actively collaborate with this non-profit group on fuel management and restoration projects in Claremont Canyon. The citizen-based Claremont Canyon Conservancy focuses on long-term stewardship of Claremont Canyon to reduce wildfire hazards, improve public access and preserve or restore a healthy native ecosystem. The University of California Berkeley and the Conservancy continue to implement the joint stewardship Memorandum of Understanding for select UC lands. In the past, the Conservancy provided UCB project funding and continues to host monthly volunteer work projects toward fire management, trail creation and maintenance and revegetation efforts in the canyon. During 2012, East Bay Regional Park District and the Conservancy developed a Right of Entry agreement, which allows neighborhood groups to conduct fuel reduction work on District lands. Over the past year, 7 monthly volunteer sessions were held in Claremont Canyon to find and remove eucalyptus, pine and acacia sprouts, as well as controlling broom and improving the trails needed to provide emergency access. City of Oakland, UCB and East Bay Municipal Utility District who own lands in the canyon also coordinate with the organization. In the past

year, the Claremont Conservancy designed, funded and installed a redwood fence adjacent to the creek to discourage the long-standing practice of illegal dumping. No dumping has occurred since the fence was installed! For more information see their website at www.claremontcanyon.org/.

Fire Safe Councils: HEF members are regularly involved with the Diablo Fire Safe Council (representing Alameda and Contra Costa Counties), the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council and the California Fire Safe Council. These groups provide the opportunity to collaborate with local homeowners, businesses and policy makers. For more information see their websites at: www.diablofiresafe.org, www.sccfiresafe.org/ and www.firesafecouncil.org.

HEF members regularly coordinate with Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) to develop grant proposals for fuel reduction, education and outreach projects throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. For 2013, DFSC had two active federal grants: \$180,010 for defensible space projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and \$260,737 for projects in the Southern Oakland Hills. They also have received grant funds from Pacific Gas and Electric. Pending award in Fall of 2013 is \$260,000 for a community hazardous fuel reduction program for Western Contra Costa. Matches to these federal dollars are from local funds, such as EBRPD Measure CC funds, in-kind service from HEF members and local fire agencies, as well as sweat equity from residents.

Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District: The members of the Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) Advisory Committee are actively involved in the promotion of wildfire prevention activities in their respective districts. In regularly schedule monthly meetings, the committee develops wildfire prevention policy to be adopted by the City of Oakland. Over the past year, more attention has been devoted to the development of "Public / Private" Partnerships that promote neighborhood hazardous fuels removal projects. For more information see their website at oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention.

City of Oakland continues to develop community-based partnerships to remove hazardous fuels on city open spaces. Neighbors concerned with Shepherd Canyon, Garber Park and Beaconsfield participate in volunteer activities on these three open space lands to reduce the risk of fire.

Mitigation Planning and Research

This past year HEF members have assisted in discussions of planning, environmental compliance documents and research related to urban wildland fire and fuel removal.

Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction, East Bay Hills, CA - Regulatory Compliance

In 2013, HEF members continued to work with State and Federal elected officials to provide information on the evolving FEMA grants and the controversy this work has generated among a section of the public.. Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Barbara Lee's offices are monitoring progress to ensure the timely completion of environmental review and to communicate with constituents regarding the planned fuel management work. For further information on schedule and progress see ebheis.cdmims.com/Home.aspx

HEF members have been working in the field with US Fish and Wildlife Service regulatory staffs to review the results of projects completed over the previous years and discuss regional best management practices. Members also have reviewed compliance with relevant parts of the Forest Practice rules and California Fish and Game requirements that need to be incorporated into fuel reduction projects. The project proponents have begun working with CAL FIRE in the preparation of Timber Harvest Plans, which will allow the grant work to comply with the California Forest Products Act and may also serve as a vehicle for CEQA review.

At their October 2012 meeting the HEF executives voted to ask the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for a rules change to expedite fuel management planning and implementation. In response, the Board is considering a rule change that would remove eucalyptus as a commercial species and demote Monterey pine to a lesser value category. If approved, this would effectively eliminating future needs for Timber Harvest Plans as a component of fuels management work.

East Bay Fuels Inventory Photo Series

Throughout the country, wildland managers have for decades used photo series as a simple, cost-effective method for quantifying existing fuel characteristics, which drive fire intensity, rate of spread and other behavior phenomena. Most have been created by the US Forest Service's Fire and Environmental Research Applications (FERA) Program in Seattle, WA. In 2010 East Bay Regional Park District received a grant to assist with developing a photo series covering a range of fuel loadings in a variety of local vegetation types. This will create a scientifically based support tool that can improve environmental analysis and fire management decision processes. The photo series will provide an important tool for three critical areas of fire hazard reduction - fuel evaluation and treatment objectives, contract development and administration, as well as communication with community stakeholders. As has been experienced with other photo series, the end product is expected to be useable by land managers well beyond the park district. Clearly other Bay Area agencies will find them applicable, and they will serve wildland urban interface fire protection agencies in other locations throughout coastal California.

In 2011, a FERA crew collected data on 13 units: three units of Grasslands, 2 units of Shrublands, 2 units of Oak/Bay Woodlands, and 6 units of Eucalyptus Forests and Woodlands. Some of the units presented a unique challenge to quantify the biomass present. It necessitated developing new methods of sampling and calculation. Data reduction continued in 2012. The final version *Photo Series for Quantifying Natural Fuels Volume XII: Grasslands, Shrublands, Oak-Bay Woodlands and Eucalyptus Forests in the Bay Area of California* is available digitally at <http://depts.washington.edu/nwfire/dps/>. Printed copies will be made available to HEF members and a training will be held on the use of the photos series during late 2013.

Vegetation Management

A relatively dry winter meant an early 2013 fire season for Bay Area fire protection agencies. This past year we have continued to focus on expanding our fuel mitigation projects throughout the East Bay hills. We have expanded our system of strategic fuel reduction zones through use of goats, hand crews, machinery, as well as old-fashioned horse logging techniques.

The management strategy for some of the projects promotes a forest conversion: the emerging native forest of California bay, oak, maple, and redwood are retained or augmented while the existing eucalyptus/pine/acacia dominated exotic canopy forest are eradicated. The native species produce either considerably lesser fuel loads or are most fuel productive well before the peak of the regional fire season. Most projects this last year consisted of thinning pine and eucalyptus stands to reduce fuel loading and ladder fuel continuity, while promoting a more healthy and vigorous understory of native plants.



During the removal projects, the native trees were protected, while the exotic trees were removed and their stump cambium chemically treated with herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. Felled trees were either chipped or retained whole on the project site. Removed stems were recycled as roadside timbers, retained as habitat, or positioned for erosion control on the project site. Projects included:

- **EBRPD** completed a 140-acre eucalyptus thinning project around the family campground at Lake Chabot. On the steep slopes, felled material was removed by helicopter to collection locations where the tree boles and limbs were chipped for distribution on site or removal to the closest energy co-generation plant. Much of this year's focus was on maintaining over 800 acres of existing East Bay hills fuel breaks by weed-eating, mechanical and hand removal of brush, goat grazing and eucalyptus stump resprout control, and doing the initial field planning on nearly 600 acres of new treatment scheduled for 2014. In 2012, together with Oakland Fire Department and the city's Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD), EBRPD conducted substantial public outreach to the community surrounding Sibley Triangle, near Skyline Blvd and Thorndale Drive at the head of Thornhill Canyon. The planned eucalyptus thinning for hazardous fuel reduction on 13 acres abutting residential areas was completed during the Spring of 2013. Approximately 50 acres was burned for grassland restoration and live fire training at Pt. Pinole and Round Valley.
- **EBMUD** removed 60 eucalyptus trees and 1.5 acres of brush on the Oakland/Berkeley watershed interface. Combined management tactics, including herded goats, mechanical mowing and hand labor, were used to reduce fuel loading, manage eucalyptus resprouts and enhance native plant populations within the 16.75 acre fuel treatment area.
- **City of Oakland** has managed more than 460 acres by use of goat herds. The Oakland Wildfire Protection Assessment District in collaboration with the Friends of Sausal Creek and local community group developed and funded the Shepherd Canyon project. This project will demonstrate long-term, sustainable clearing for wildfire safety that will reduce invasive plants and nurture native plant populations. Other public-private partnerships have been established in Beaconsfield Canyon and Garber Park to jointly manage over 25 acres of open space.
- **LBNL** Lawrence Berkeley National Lab has completed all of the recommendations in its previous 10-year Wildland Fire Plan. A new plan is needed looking forward and will be implemented as soon as it's completed. LBNL will maintain the property by using goat-herds and by having personnel weed-eat certain areas.
- The **El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department** continues to aggressively manage the fire fuel loads, fire trail and the fuel breaks within their 90 plus acres of city owned natural parkland and the miles of urban interface with Wildcat and Tilden Regional Parks. This is achieved through multiple partnerships with Diablo Fire Safe Council, East Bay Regional Parks, Cal Fire, and their own community groups. Their fuel management efforts include: prescribed burns and mechanical methods (i.e. weed eating, chainsaw and mowing). During 2012/13 the El Cerrito / Kensington has significantly reduced the acreage of prescribed burns. During 2013 they also completed tree removal projects. These included private residential and commercial properties. In addition projects were completed in partnership with the West County Unified School District and properties near condominium residences.
- **UC Berkeley** completed their eucalyptus removal project below Lawrence Hall of Science. They have maintained previous fuel reduction work related to eucalyptus sprouts over 189 acres. UC also has managed, extended and improved its 8-mile fire trail network, cleared roadsides, turnouts and neighborhood interface zones with contract hand crews. During 2013, they restored an existing fire road to reinstate direct access between two loops of Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Broom control along the fire trails and in conversion sites continues as a priority,

“Storm of Controversy Rages over Fire Hazard Reduction Plans for the Oakland Hills (Oakland Local 6/3/2013).”

The East Bay Hills Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction Environmental Impact Statement was released by FEMA for public review with three public meetings in May. The comment period closed June 17, 2013. Extensive media coverage was provided by local and national outlets including:

- Bay Area News Group – Montclairion
- California Fire News
- Center for Environment, Commerce and Energy
- Contra Costa Times
- East Bay Express
- KQED
- KGO
- Indybay.org
- Oakland Local
- San Jose Mercury News
- San Francisco Chronicle
- The Daily Californian
- Wall Street Journal

Much of the reporting was balanced and informed. There also was active blogging and comment threads, some factual and other not so much. Public opinion was divided among supporters and critics of the proposed plan. Petitions for both support and to stop the project were developed and circulated on the internet, and included fundraising efforts for future legal challenges from one critic group.

Use of CDCR/ CAL FIRE Conservation Camp crews

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are two of the few counties in the state that do not contain a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)/ CAL FIRE Conservation Camp. The nearest facility is the Delta Camp out of Suisun City. The CDCR/ CAL FIRE work crews have been used successfully on several local fuel mitigation projects in the East Bay. In 2002 a sixth crew was established in the Delta Camp and has been an asset to the Bay Area. This past year they assisted with brush cutting and pile burns in several fuel break maintenance areas on EBRPD lands in the East Bay Hills. They worked with El Cerrito cutting brush, trimming trees, creating brush piles and conducting pile burns from cut materials. They also worked on EBMUD watershed lands, around the Berkeley Hills Reservoir, adjacent to Grizzly Peak Boulevard and the main entrance to the San Pablo Recreation Area. Hand thinning to reduce fuel loading and preparing for pile burns later this winter.

In addition to the use of Civicorps, the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department has developed a partnership with Cal Fire and their CDC fire handcrews. This partnership has been instrumental in the maintenance of crucial fire fuel reduction zones between their Natural Area Parks and the neighborhood interface zones surrounding these parks. This relationship has been so effective, El Cerrito/ Kensington Fire Department has expanded the program and the partnership with East Bay Regional Parks (EBRPD) to maintain the existing fire fuel reductions zones along the miles of EBRPD parkland urban interface with the City of El Cerrito and the Community of Kensington.

Research Developments in Fire Science

EBMUD continued to do research using myceliated spawn from the *Pleurotus* genus to accelerate the decomposition of woody debris.

Prescribed Burn Program and BAAMQD Open Burning Fee

The use of prescribed fire continues to be expanded by the East Bay Regional Park District, the City of El Cerrito and East Bay Municipal Utilities District, in cooperation with local fire agencies in the Berkeley-Oakland hills. This past year pile burns were conducted in Wildcat Canyon, Tilden, Redwood, Anthony Chabot and Sibley Regional Parks, Claremont Canyon Preserve and resource management

burns were conducted in Round Valley and at Point Pinole. These prescribed burns provide resource management, such as weed plant control and enhancing plant diversity, as well as fuel reduction and valuable live fire training. Written plans are prepared for each project, with agency staff working closely with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and CALFIRE for approvals and coordinating with local fire agencies. Incident Action Plans are written for each project to define procedures for establishing control lines, making proper notifications, briefing personnel on safety considerations, managing smoke and applying appropriate burning techniques. The prescribed burns enhance firefighter skills and interagency cooperation, in addition to meeting resource and fuel management goals.



The City of El Cerrito also conducted prescribed burns that consisted of both dried vegetation piles and standing fuels throughout City parks and wildland-urban-interfaces areas. Prescribed burning within El Cerrito has been used for more than twenty years to reduce wildland-urban-interface fuels. In recent years, prescribed burns have been conducted in conjunction with mechanical means of vegetation management. This year El Cerrito reduced the number of prescribed burns they conducted and focused more on hand labor to remove heavy brush and limb trees. The brush and branches that were cut were either chipped in place and broadcast spread in the area or moved to safe areas and piled for burning. By taking this approach they were able to reduce the fuel loads in areas that were considered unsafe for prescribed burning. This has enabled the City to provide pinpoint accuracy in reducing the fuels that create the greatest risk of wildland-urban-interface fire loss within the City.

The City of El Cerrito and the community of Kensington continue to manage their two demonstration vegetation management projects, along Leneve Place to Camp Herms, developed in conjunction with the East Bay Regional Park District. They continue to manage 90 acres of city property with a year round program that use control burns and mechanical methods to maintain fuel management zones at the borders of the city and parklands.

In early 2013, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District conducted a series of workshops to present a proposal for revenue recovery including a new open burning fee that includes use of prescribed fire. In February, the HEF SLC submitted a letter opposing the fee and asked that other options be considered. In June at a BAAQMD Board Hearing, HEF SLC repeated the request, made the Board aware of the use of prescribed fires for training and habitat conservation, and again requested other options be considered. The HEF SLC continues to track this issue as the added fees could limit the use of prescribed fire.

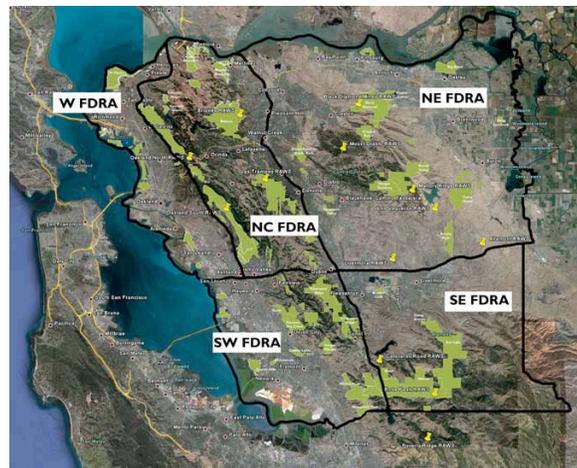
Preparedness

Weather Monitoring and Fire Danger Operations Plan

The local uses of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) data are important. Weather information is used to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of fire patrols and deployments. National Weather Service (NOAA) forecasters in Monterey issue Fire Weather Watch and Red Flag Warnings for the East Bay (see their web site at www.wrh.noaa.gov/Monterey/). These watches and warnings trigger heightened alert and deployment of additional local fire suppression resources when responding to a fire. RAWS provide more current local micro-climate data in five zones that can be used to



confirm the NOAA red-flag warning. This confirmation of local weather can prevent the over deployment of resources when the local conditions are not as severe as general state-wide conditions. Occasionally local RAWs data will also provide data that recommends the use of additional suppression resources even when no NOAA red-flag warning has been issued. These red-flag warnings and fire weather watches signal cooperative patrols throughout the high hazard areas. The information is also used by EBRPD, Oakland and El Cerrito as a part of their high fire danger park announcements, use restrictions and is used to set dispatch levels by EBRPD, LBNL, Berkeley, Oakland, El Cerrito and EBMUD. The data from the RAWs can be accessed at a web site developed by the East Bay Regional Park District at www.ebparks.org/about/fire/raws.



Mutual Aid

HEF agency personnel and equipment participated in the suppression of several large fires in many western states, northern California and others closer by during 2013. The El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department supported overhead fire operations on the American Fire and RIMS fire in California. In addition to the overhead assignments, the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department, Moraga Orinda Fire District and other local agencies supported firefighting operations the large RIMS fire in northern CA and the Corral Complex by supplying firefighters and apparatus. When the Morgan Fire ignited on the east side of Mount Diablo on September 8th, HEF agency personnel was supported by others from outside of the two counties.

After the Oakland Hills fire of 1991, Contra Costa and Alameda County fire agencies joined resources and developed an All Risk -Type Three Incident Management Team to respond to any type of large emergency within the two counties. Over the years the team has responded to several large fires within the two counties.

Interagency Exercises and Preparedness Training

During 2013 multi-agency fire training exercises were planned in which local fire departments would meet to practice coordinated Mutual Response Area move-ups. This involved having fire apparatus and crews actually move between predetermined staging areas that will be used in the event of a major wildland interface fire in the East Bay Hills. Participating agencies included Berkeley Fire Department, El Cerrito Fire Department, East Bay Regional Park District Fire Department, Moraga Orinda Fire District, Richmond Fire Department and Rodeo-Hercules Fire Department. Three days after the drill several of the agencies responded to a grass fire in the hills.

El Cerrito Fire Department sponsored and conducted training in the Incident Command System (ICS) 300 & 400 levels for Richmond, El Cerrito and others from Western Contra Costa County. Attendees included not only fire and law enforcement, but also city administrators, city managers and public works staff. The City of El Cerrito participated in the Golden Guardian Exercise this year by conducting Emergency Operation Center Training, having Table Top Exercises and finally, in conjunction with Contra Costa County, El Cerrito had a functional EOC exercise.

Moraga Orinda Fire District received a SAFER grant this year that allowed them to hire four new firefighters. Once on board new staff will be sent to the Fire Academy. MOFD has also applied for grant funds for addition personal protection equipment (PPE).

Heli-tack Support

EBRPD maintained its two helicopters, Eagle VI and Eagle VII, for use on fires this year. During the prolonged hot, dry months of the summer and fall, the Helicopter Unit teams up with the EBRPD Fire Department to provide Heli-tack and water bucket responses to fires. Bambi Bucket® equipment is carried on all routine patrol flights, enabling a rapid response to fires. If a fire should erupt, the Bambi Bucket is quickly attached to the helicopter for direct attack. Ponds, streams and lakes are ready water sources for providing rapid delivery of water on active fires via the Bambi Bucket. During times of extreme fire hazards, selected, specially trained Park District Fire Fighters act as Heli-tack crewmembers and are transported swiftly to fires. Once deployed at the fire scene, Heli-tack crews act in concert with the water-dropping helicopter in an effort to extinguish fires quickly.

Outreach, Media Relations and Disaster Communication

Public Outreach

HEF members have used a variety of methods over the years to distribute fire safety information to their constituencies including newspaper articles, brochures and hands-on workshops in neighborhoods. During “Red Flag” days many HEF members fly fire weather flags at fire stations, on the watershed and at recreation facilities. These bright red pennant flags were provided in 2008 by the Diablo Fire Safe Council to increase public awareness of periods of increased fire danger. Several members also participated in open houses at local fire stations during National Fire Prevention Week in October.

Training: Oakland Fire Department sponsored a Contractor’s Training workshop before the start of fire season. In addition to training local contractors regarding fuel reduction regulations and defensible space, the program provided information about creek protection, endangered species and compliance with the various environmental regulations.

Media Coverage: HEF members regularly contribute to local and national news coverage and special interest series that address wildland fire safety, fuel management and other environmental issues. During 2013 media coverage was most intensely related to the FEMA EIS document, the RIM Fire near Yosemite and the Morgan Fire on Mt. Diablo including:

- Thanawala Sudhin. “Rim Fire burns 252,156 acres, 81% contained.” Associated Press. September 14, 2013
- Alexander, Kurtis and Kevin Fagan. “Mt. Diablo fire traced to target shooting.” Thursday September 12, 2013. San Francisco Chronicle.
- Hurd Rick, Jeremy Thomas, Erin Ivie and David DeBolt. “Mt. Diablo Fire: Spread of blaze has ‘stopped’ around 3,700 acres, fire official says.” San Jose Mercury News.
- Staff Report. “Fire near Mt. Diablo grows past 800 acres.” NBC Bay Area news. NBCBayArea.com.Monday Sept 9, 2013
- Fimrite, Peter and Kurtis Alexander. “Yosemite fire threatens towns, S.F.’s reservoir.” San Francisco Chronicle. Friday September 6, 2013.
- KQED News Staff. “Rim Fire: Update on San Francisco Water Supply.” KQED News. August 26, 2013
- Rodriguez Joe, Jeremy Thomas and Paul Burgarino. “Tragic Arizona blaze that killed 19 firefighters resonates sadly in Bay Area stations. Contra Costa Times. July 2, 2013.
- Halstead, Richard. “Marin grand jury endorses herbicides to reduce fire risk on Mount Tamalpais.” Marin Independent Journal. March 25, 2013.
- Johnson, Nels. “Marin parks chief: Mill Valley ordered ‘devastating’ open space fuel break cut.” Marin Independent Journal. March 9, 2013
- Fimrite, Peter. “UCSF, neighbors tangle over eucalyptus.” San Francisco Chronicle. Friday March 1, 2013. Front page.

- EBRPD Staff. “Wildfire Hazard Reduction Projects underway in Sibley.” EBRPD News. Dec 2012.

Community Outreach and Training: This past year saw continued outreach and coordination with local neighborhood groups, especially in the Claremont Canyon, Panoramic Hill, Gwinn Canyon, Lamorinda areas, and the community of Canyon. East Bay Regional Parks District partnered with Diablo Fire Safe Council, and the Park Hills Home Owner Association in Berkeley to facilitate volunteer efforts through a right of entry agreement to reduce fuel levels on public lands adjacent to their homes. Similar right of entry partnerships have also been established with Kensington homeowners and the Claremont Canyon Conservancy in Claremont Canyon.

Moraga Orinda Fire District hosted two open house / safety fair events to provide residents with information about emergency preparedness and wildfire risk reduction. Regional partners participating in these events included Diablo Fire Safe Council, Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Team, Pacific Gas & Electric, East Bay Regional Park District, and the Contra Costa County Community Warning System.

Tours

San Francisco State University Geography 65I: Bay Area Environmental Issues class: On April 25, 2013 HEF members facilitated a tour of the Oakland-Berkeley hills for a class from San Francisco State University - Geography 65I San Francisco Bay Area Environmental Issues. This 3-hour tour included presentations by staff from Oakland, EBMUD, UCB and EBRPD about fuel management and the various approaches used by each agency.

International Seminar on Disaster Management: On August 30, 2013. HEF SLC member hosted a field tour for the US Forest Service International Programs Disaster Management Seminar. The program shares U.S. expertise with an international audience helping them build capacity in their own countries and develop a network of disaster managers worldwide. 15 participants attended from 12 countries They included representatives from national programs, US Embassy and USAID (Resource managers, emergency managers) and non-governmental organizations (Red Cross, World Vision). The program showcased disaster management systems at the federal, state, local and private levels. HEF focused on the 1991 Tunnel Fire and lessons learned. Presentations included the disaster preparedness cycle, an overview of the Tunnel Fire with footage from the fire, background on the HEF and a driving tour of the fire area. . The day provided a variety of opportunities for interaction and highlighted the Hills Emergency Forum cooperative approach.

Web Site: The Forum pursues effective methods of communicating information on East Bay hills fire hazards and mitigation techniques. The HEF continues to update their web site to provide information on the Hills Emergency Forum, fire hazards in the East Bay hills and fuel mitigation and can be reached at www.hillsemergencyforum.org. The e-mail address provides another way for residents in the hills to access member agencies at hillsemergencyforum@comcast.net.

Legislative Outreach

Since the formation of the HEF, members have provided support to state legislators to help shape legislation related to fire safety and fuel mitigation. The HEF continued to monitor legislative issues.

AB350 Timber Harvesting plan; exempt activities

Sudden Oak Death (SOD). In 2013 HEF members continue to be affected by and to monitor the spread of this disease in the region. Early in the year a University of California Cooperative Extension offered a webinar with Dr. Matteo Garbelotto updating current research, the state of knowledge and available treatment options. ucd.adobeconnect.com/_a841422360/p7zv97xmw3g/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal



2013 DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

On August 30, 2013, HEF SLC members hosted a field tour for the 2013 International Seminar on Disaster Management, a pilot program developed by the USDA Forest Service International Programs. The seminar shared U.S. expertise with an international audience helping them build capacity in their own countries and develop a network of disaster managers worldwide.

15 participants attended from 12 countries:

Brazil	Ethiopia	Georgia
Honduras	Kenya	Morocco
Oman	Sudan	Turkey
Uganda	Ukraine	Yemen

Attendees were representatives from national programs, U.S. Embassy, USAID and the non-governmental organizations Red Cross and World Vision. They included resource managers, training specialists, environmental analysts and emergency managers responsible for coordination of humanitarian and emergency response for natural and man-made disasters, food security and displaced persons.

The 17-day seminar showcased disaster management systems at the federal, state, local and private levels. HEF members focused on the 1991 Tunnel Fire and lessons learned. Presentations included the disaster preparedness cycle, an overview of the Tunnel Fire with footage from the fire, background on the HEF and a driving tour of the fire area. The group visited the area impacted by the Tunnel Fire and hazardous fuel reduction project sites. Various strategies for wildfire prevention were discussed reflecting HEF member organizations and their diverse missions.

Speakers included representatives from:

- El Cerrito Fire Department,
- Oakland Fire Department,
- CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
- University of California Berkeley
- East Bay Municipal Utilities District
- East Bay Regional Park District

The day provided a variety of opportunities for interaction and highlighted the Hills Emergency Forum cooperative approach.

Photos courtesy of K. Corcoran, O. Iritas, C. Miller, D. Orbus



The Hills Emergency Forum facilitates a cooperative approach among nine governing organizations addressing urban wildland interface fire issues in the Oakland-Berkeley hills.

The SOD Blitz of 2013 was scheduled for early October as this annual report was being prepared. Results will be posted at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/english/sodblitzfollowup.php>. In the Fall of 2012 the Blitz volunteers sampled 383 trees in East Bay/ UC Berkeley area with 13.6% testing positive for the pathogen. Major findings include a return of the pathogen to UC Berkeley Campus and southward movement of SOD in the Orinda area. Both Alameda and Contra Costa County are under State and Federal quarantine. This quarantine placed special rules regarding movement and use of susceptible plants, as well as sanitation practices that must be followed to minimize spread of the pathogen. While the course of the disease is unpredictable and variable, death of the shrub or tree is almost certain. The pathogen is known to attack 17 species, 16 of them found in California including madrone, bay laurel, redwood, Douglas fir and two species of native oaks. Up-to-date information can be found at www.suddenoakdeath.org or through the University of California Cooperative Extension offices.

Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*): Early spring 2007 an outbreak of light brown apple moth was positively confirmed in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The moth is considered a High-Risk pest; if left unchecked it has the potential for significant economic losses due to major impact on fruit crops. During 2013, quarantines remain in effect restricting intrastate shipment of plant materials including biomass from fuel reduction projects. The moths live on eucalyptus and can affect a wide variety of plants. All materials leaving the counties must be inspected, including materials produced during fuel reduction projects.



ANNUAL ROTATION OF HEF CHAIR

2014	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
2015	Moraga Orinda Fire Protection District
2016	East Bay Municipal Utility District
2017	East Bay Regional Park District
2018	City of Oakland
2018	University of California, Berkeley
2019	City of Berkeley
2020	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
2021	City of El Cerrito



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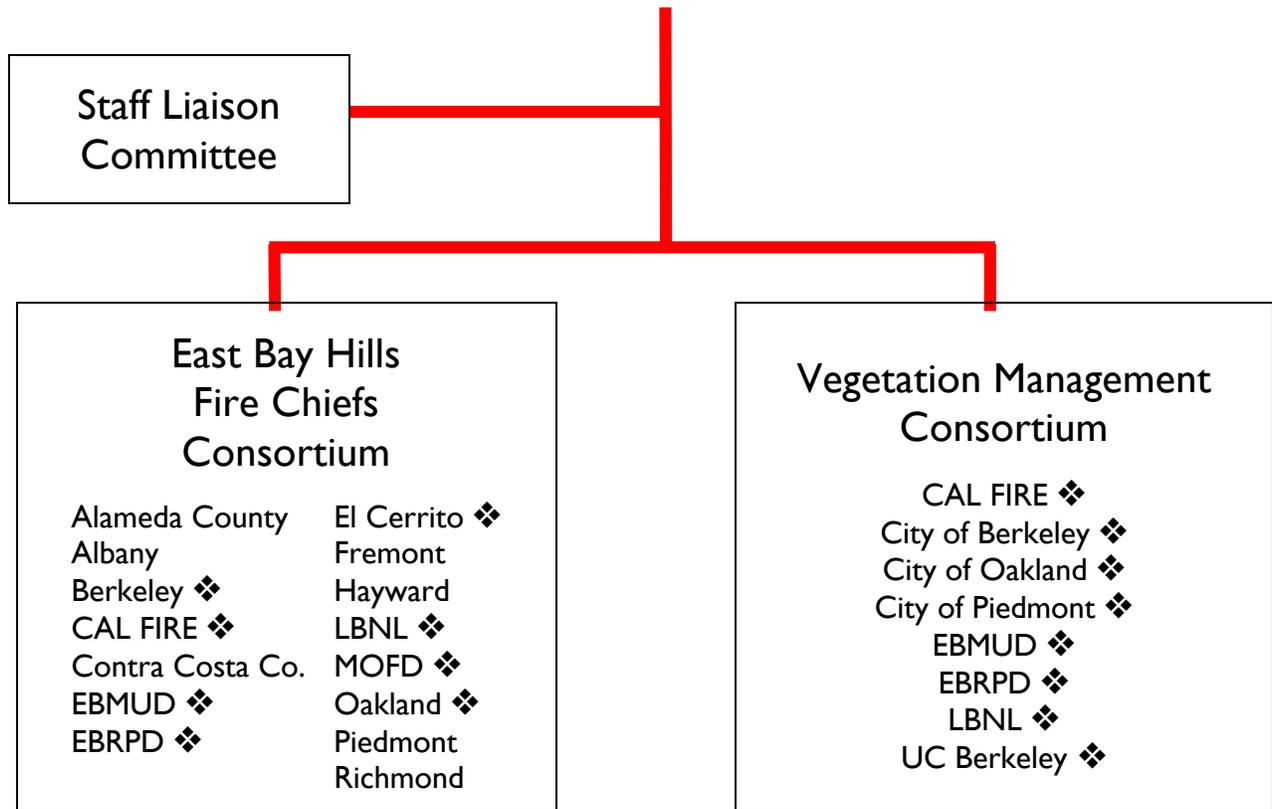
9/12/2013

Organization Structure



City of Berkeley
 City of El Cerrito ☆
 City of Oakland

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) ☆
 East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)
 East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)
 Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)
 Moraga Orinda Fire Prevention District (MOFD)
 University of California, Berkeley



☆ 2013 Chair
 ☆ 2014 Chair
 ❖ HEF Member

2.0 Report Background and Overview

This report describes activities undertaken to achieve the HEF's 2013 workplan. The workplan, which appears in the Appendices, identified goals and projects in four critical areas of emergency management: assessment, mitigation, preparedness and response. It sets a milestone or due date for action and it designates the lead or responsible standing committee, organization or jurisdiction. We have organized the report by these goals and include the group with the primary responsibility.

The Staff Liaison Committee:

The HEF's administrative component -- the Staff Liaison Committee (SLC) -- is comprised of representatives from all member agencies. The SLC is responsible for developing and monitoring progress on the Forum's annual workplan, analyzing HEF policy issues for agency executives, identifying issues for possible legislative support, and coordinating the HEF annual public meeting.

Two subcommittees are activated by the SLC as needed to address specific issues -- the East Bay Fire Chiefs (EBFC) and the Vegetation Management Consortium (VMC).

East Bay Fire Chiefs

EBFC consists of the chief officers from fire departments in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and representatives of allied agencies, such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). It aims to standardize equipment and training for the two counties, assure coordinated responses to major incidents, and educate the East Bay community about wildland fire safety. Fire Chiefs from the East Bay meet on a regular basis in conjunction with the Alameda and Contra Costa County Chiefs Associations.

Vegetation Management Consortium

The VMC includes representatives from the East Bay cities, other public agencies and utilities, who have a stake in fire safety and fuel management in the East Bay hills. Its focus is fire-hazard reduction through vegetation management strategies.

The third section of the report summarizes the accomplishments of the HEF member agencies during 2013. All activities are discussed in terms of the four key areas -- assessment, mitigation, preparedness, response -- and in light of HEF's goals in each area. Finally, Section 4.0 is a summary of the proposed 2014 Goals and Workplan.

This report is not an exhaustive list of ongoing efforts by each agency to manage fire risk. It simply highlights important interagency efforts conducted under the Forum's auspices.

3.0 Workplan Accomplishments

Assessment

Goal: *Assess critical infrastructure support systems, operation plans, and public concerns.*

Objective: *Continue quarterly meetings with fire jurisdictions regarding water supply and delivery issues.*

Status: The Berkeley Fire Department Disaster Firefighting Water System is operational for those times when the regular firefighting water system is not available or has limited flow. Department wide training was completed October 2010. The system has two 6,000 gallon per minute pumps HS-900s, six hose-layer units each with a mile of 12 inch ultra large diameter hose and the necessary connections to create a firefighting water main flowing up to 12,000 gallons a minute. Normal distance the hose can be deployed depending on elevation is three miles. Longer deployments of up six miles are possible at 5,000 to 6,000 gallon per minute flows.

The pumps do not depend on drafting for access to the bay or lakes for water. The system is truck transportable and the hose is deployed at speeds up to 15 mph. Deployment time from pump at water source to hose deployed with water flowing over a two mile distance is one hour or less depending on conditions with a crew of five people. The system has hose recovery units that assist loading hose back into the hose-layers. The equipment is containerized and only two transport trucks are need to deploy the system.

In addition the system has a smaller pump HS 150 and 5-inch hose system, which can provide 1,000 gallon per minute flows over a mile for smaller operations or extension of the larger system. The system is not part of the mutual aid system at this time but regional events that impact on Berkeley could warrant use of the system outside of Berkeley.

The City of El Cerrito provides fire protection services for Kensington. The Kensington Fire Protection District continues to improve the waterflow at its interface edge with East Bay Regional Park District lands. This is a five-phase project of which, four of the five phases have been completed. Phase V of the project originally consisted of installing cisterns in strategic locations. Completion of geotechnical studies indicated the soil was unstable and would not support cisterns in close proximity to residential units. Because of this, phase V was reevaluated, and the determination was made that looping the existing fire mains would provide the best water supply for the area in consideration. Along with enhancing the areas of concern, they found the looping would greatly enhance the water main system in adjoining parkland urban-interface neighborhoods. They are currently working with property owners to establish easements to install new water mains to facilitate the looping of the fire main system. The City of El Cerrito has been undertaking a similar water flow study for their area.

The California Water/ Wastewater Agency Response Network (Cal WARN) supports and promotes statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities. At least annually, each of the 6 regional chair provides member utilities an updated list of emergency contacts and a data base of available equipment. Website: calwarn.org

Objective: *Revise fire response plans to incorporate review comments.*

Objective: *Conduct annual review of local fire response plans for urban wildland intermix fires.*

Status: All participating fire jurisdictions have response plans for urban/wildland intermix fires in the East Bay hills. These plans identify equipment and staffing levels for different levels of response, incident coordination procedures and guidelines for resource deployment during major incidents, and are periodically reviewed and updated.

In 2011 the East Bay Regional Park District updated their Fire Danger Operating Plan. Fire restriction levels were supported with more focus on visitor behavior changes as fire danger increases. Additional minor adjustments were made in 2012. In 2013, the District's Fire Department continues to provide timely information on weather and fuel conditions to park staff, visitors, and contractors in the parks. The information is found on its webpage and through the use of fire danger rating sign.

The El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department continues their commitment to maintaining complete comprehensive emergency response plans. Last year they completed and the Council approved and adopted the updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The City of El Cerrito and the Kensington Fire Protection District have worked in conjunction with other Contra Costa County Cities and Special Districts to update and enhance their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) that identify risks within their jurisdictions and allow them be able to receive pre disaster mitigation grants. High risk priorities identified in the LHMP include reducing the risk of wildfire within their jurisdictions.

In addition to emergency response plans and the LHMP, the El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department has an unyielding dedication to providing the most effective urban interface fire response possible. This has been demonstrated over the past couple of years by the purchase two type 3 fire engines. One of these Type 3 engines actively supported firefighting operations on the RIMS Fire. These engines are specifically designed for wildland and wildland-urban interface fires and have been strategically assigned to their two most demanding wildland interface stations.

Goal: *Support continued funding for fuel hazard assessment and mitigation programs.*

Objective: *Develop plan for updating 1995 GIS base data (vegetation & residential hazard).*

Objective: *Re-evaluate programs in light of Proposition 218 funding challenges.*

Status: Agencies update data regarding their individual properties on an on-going basis. Forum members continue to search for an effective methodology to update the data on fuel hazard assessment on a region-wide basis.

Funding remains the primary challenge to completing the assessment update and mitigation programs. A variety of funding sources have been pursued at the Local, State and Federal levels.

EBRPD, UC Berkeley and the City of Oakland have continued to work with supporting Claremont Canyon Conservancy and their fuel removal projects in Claremont Canyon area to improve fire safety. The Claremont Canyon Conservancy continues to be a major supporter with both volunteers to assist in the management and stewardship of wildlands as well as financial gifts towards Claremont Canyon fuel reduction projects. EBRPD, El Cerrito Fire Department, Kensington Fire District, and Diablo Fire Safe Council have supported similar stewardship projects with the residents of Kensington and Berkeley along the interface with Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Regional Parks.

The citizens of the City of Oakland voted in Fall 2004 to fund their Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) to provide funding for a period of ten years. In November 2014 the residents of the district will receive ballots to determine if the district will continue. An

eleven member Citizen's Advisory Committee oversees the activities in the district and meets on a monthly basis. Services include inspection of approximately 22,000 public and private properties in the high fire hazard area by the Oakland Fire Department, debris removal, and wood chipping program and public education. The education program for homeowners includes instructional workshops, volunteer work days, improved resources on the website (www.oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention) and presentations at community and public events. A community database has been developed and is utilized to inform the residents of such things as Red Flag Warnings, information and resources and inspection program dates and regulations.

Prevention/ Mitigation

Goal: *Incorporate recommendations from the Fuel Management Plan and support AB 337 information sharing requirements.*

Objective: *Incorporate the Fuel Management Plan (FMP) in all planning and mitigation projects.*

Status: The FMP has been incorporated into each member's guiding policy documents and projects that are underway.

Objective: *Monitor 203 plans for goat-grazing and joint maintenance operations.*

Status: HEF members continue to benefit from joint Request For Proposal for multi-year contracts that were issued in past years. This resulted in a more coordinated effort throughout the region and the identification of new goat herds. In recognition of the need to get the fire hazard reduction work accomplished earlier in the season East Bay Regional Park District split its goat grazing program into two roughly equal projects and awarded new contracts to two contractors for the three year period 2012-2014.. Goat contractors have helped reduce fuel loads on properties managed by City of Oakland, East Bay Municipal Utility District, East Bay Regional Park District and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Over 500 acres were managed using goats. This continues to be a popular fuel reduction technique with some neighboring residents, while being anathema to others. The City of Oakland manages contracts for goat grazing on over 460 acres in eight areas, with enhanced treatment precautions and controls. Grazing has proven to be a cost-effective wildfire prevention measure in specific areas. EBMUD continues using goats on 40 acres to reduce fuel loading and convert from brush to grassland.

Objective: *Share Geographic Information Systems (GIS) report and data with other agencies (upon request)*

Status: The GIS data is available on CD-ROM. As the data is refined and updated it will continue to be shared with HEF members and others.

Goal: *Promote implementation of fire code compliance programs*

Objective: *Provide public education about code requirements.*

Objective: *Conduct and track inspections on private property.*

Objective: *Issue notices of violations, monitor corrective action.*

Objective: *Report on inspection and compliance programs.*

Status: During 2013, the **City of Berkeley** completed inspections with compliance for 100% of the 1,300 properties in the Berkeley Hazardous Fire Area.

El Cerrito has over 4,000 properties it inspects in its very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ) and 6,000 properties outside of the VHFHSZ, with an additional 2,000 in Kensington. To date, the El Cerrito Fire Department continues a very proactive public education program to make the citizens aware of the extreme fire dangers in the community. Along with this public education, El Cerrito aggressively pursues citizen compliance with the City Council's approved vegetation management standards. These standards require property owners to maintain these

minimum vegetation standards or risk having the city council declare the properties a fire hazard and forcefully abating non-compliance properties. This past year, the fire safety inspection program had voluntary compliance rate over 99%. Unfortunately, the economy has caused many properties to foreclosed on. As a result the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department had to abate the fire hazard on 14 properties this year.

MOFD inspected approximately 4,000 inspections in Orinda and Moraga to assure compliance with their vegetation management program. This includes about 1,800 properties located in the Very High Fire Hazard Fire Severity Zones. District staff works closely with property owners to educate as they bring their properties into compliance with District standards. If deficiencies are not corrected the District can place work orders to have the work done and the property owner is billed for the work. This year over 99% of properties complied with District standards.

With a steady funding source from the Wildfire Prevention District **Oakland** inspected for compliance almost 22,000 properties this past year. As of September 2012, 88% of all inspected properties are in compliance (94% of private homeowners). Oakland Wildfire Prevention Inspectors work closely with large public entities such as Cal Trans, PG&E and fellow HEF members (UC Berkeley, EBMUD and EBRPD) on special projects and areas important to maintaining defensible space and reducing fuel loads.



Goal: Continue annual fuel reduction actions.

Objective: Continue annual maintenance of existing fuel breaks

Objective: Continue fuel reduction (including removal of hazardous trees on public property)

Objective: Evaluate options for restoring curbside vegetation recycling programs for private lands in hills (June – October).

Status: HEF members have continued and expanded on-going fuel reduction projects.

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) removed 60 second-growth eucalyptus trees from the along the Oakland/Berkeley-watershed interface. Flammable brush was removed and fuel load reduced by herded goats and mechanical mowing. Fire resistant grasslands were enhanced by hand labor. The district continued multi-agency collaboration to reduce the wildland fire hazard along the Grizzly Peak fuel break.

EBMUD continued follow-up maintenance on the fuel reduction area located at the intersection of Fish Ranch Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard including harvesting and sowing seeds from native grasses indigenous to the site. Follow-up treatments included: mowing, weed whacking, goat grazing and hand control to minimize colonization of the site by thistles, hemlock and broom.

EBMUD completed their annual mowing and weed whacking for reducing herbaceous fuels in wildlife/urban interface fuel break areas of Oakland, Berkeley, Moraga and Orinda

East Bay Regional Park District continued their on-going fuel mitigation projects using tree hand falling, prescribed fire, goats, mechanical treatments, and hand crews. These include removal of eucalyptus and Monterey pines, broom and other brush in existing fuel management zones along the urban wildland interface in Miller Knox, Tilden, Claremont, Sibley, Leona, Redwood, Wildcat Canyon, Lake Chabot, and Anthony Chabot Regional Parks.

This year **EBRPD** fire fighter crews utilized prescribed fire to treat fuels on 50 acres through two prescribed burn projects. These resource and fuel management prescribed fires also provided the opportunity for multi-agency experience with live fire.

Goat herds continue to be an effective tool in managing grass and young brush in the Tilden, Claremont Canyon, Sibley, Redwood and Chabot Regional Park areas.

Hand crews provided specialty fuel removal to create shaded fuel breaks in many of the **EBRPD** units. This year CALFIRE/CDCR crews included fuel reduction projects and on-going maintenance on Frowning Ridge, in “Sibley Triangle” at the top of Thornhill Canyon, along Canyon Drive and around Alvarado area of Wildcat Canyon. Civicorps (formerly East Bay Conservation Corps) crews continue to provide hand labor through Department of Labor and Proposition 84 grants, as did enrollees with the Student Conservation Association.

UC Berkeley continues to treat three miles of roadside and maintain and improve eight miles of fire trails for fire access while addressing erosion and invasive species concerns.

The cities have found creative ways to find dedicated funding sources for urban wildland fire prevention services. **Berkeley’s Fire Fuel** Curbside Chipper and Debris Bin Programs for residents of the Berkeley hills high risk fire area continued to be popular. Debris bags are available throughout the year.

The **Oakland Wildland Fire Prevention Assessment District** planned and scheduled a variety of fuel reduction activities this year, including: using the Civicorps (formerly East Bay Conservation Corps) to work with the City Tiger mower crew to provide clearance of 80+ miles along several main roads throughout the high fire hazard area; contracts with hand crews and goat herds to reduce the fuel load in major city-owned open spaces such as Knowland Park, King Estates, Dunsmuir Historic Estate, Joaquin Miller Open Space, London Road Canyon and parts of Castle Canyon; contracts with a variety of environmental specialists to ensure appropriate vegetation management practices including protection of rare and protected plant species of pallid manzanita and presidio clarkia; and use of local contractors to maintain defensible space regulations around structures on city property.

The **City of El Cerrito** and the community of Kensington continue to manage their two demonstration vegetation management projects, along Leneve Place to Camp Herms, developed in conjunction with the East Bay Regional Park District. They continue to manage 90 acres of city property (parks, trails, fire trails etc.) with a year round program that use prescribed burns and mechanical methods to maintain fuel management zones and manage the areas along the fire trails at the interface of Kensington and Tilden/ Wildcat Canyon Regional Parks (EBRPD).

In recent years, prescribed burns have been conducted in conjunction with mechanical means of vegetation management. This year El Cerrito reduced the number of prescribed burns they conducted and focused more on hand labor to remove heavy brush and limb trees. The brush and branches that were cut were either chipped in place and broadcast spread in the area or moved to safe areas and piled for burning. By taking this approach they were able to reduce the fuel loads in areas that were considered unsafe for prescribed burning.

Objective: *Evaluate the potential for sharing specialized equipment (for brush-clearing and chipping) among HEF agencies.*

Objective: *Foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the buffer zone identified in the Fuel Management Plan*

Status: Member agencies actively seek new ways to foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation and share information on specialize equipment or operators coming into the region.

HEF members collectively are seeing the results of the multiple, regional on-going fuel reduction projects with additional contractors interested in bidding on projects and improved efficiencies and cost effectiveness. Members are have also been able to share information about the changing financial market and difficulties contractors are facing obtaining financing for bonds or long term oversight on projects.

Preparedness

Goal: *Provide continued support for coordinated safety planning in Agency and City Plans.*

Objective: *Ensure that General Plans contain updated state-mandated Safety Elements that are compatible between jurisdictions.*

Status: This is an ongoing effort to ensure that the elements in agency plans are compatible. To this end, the SLC shares information and seeks to establish strong lines of communication between agencies.

Many HEF members have adopted long range plans and environmental compliance documents incorporating wildland fire hazard reduction. Existing plans include:

In 2010, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors adopted the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan and certified its Environmental Impact Report. The study focus was the wildland-urban interface along the western edge of the East Bay hill parks, including Wildcat Canyon, Tilden, Claremont Canyon, Sibley, Huckleberry, Roberts, Redwood, Leona, and Anthony Chabot. Best Management Practices incorporated in this hazard reduction plan are also applied to fuels treatment projects elsewhere within the Park District

The University of California, Berkeley 2020 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), and the 2020 LRDP Environmental Impact Report (EIR). UC Berkeley 2020 Hill Area Fire Fuel Management Program informed the 2020 LRDP and provides the organizational and technical basis for continued vegetation management on Regent's land. In progress is a Timber Harvest Plan to fulfill the Forest Practice Act and meet requirements of California Environmental Quality Act.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory finalized its 2006 Long Range Development Plan and Environmental Report in July 2007.

Oakland Safety Element Update to the Oakland General Plan, Initial Study and Negative Declaration adopted November 2004.

East Bay Municipal Utilities District adopted it East Bay Watershed Master Plan in 1996 and Fire Management Plan in October 2000.

HEF members participated in the 2010 update of "Taming Natural Disasters," the Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area prepared by the Association of Bay Governments. This was the required five year update of the annexes to the initial plan prepared in 2004. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) required state and local communities to have an approved multi-hazard mitigation plan in place by November 1, 2004, in order to be eligible for FEMA pre- and post-hazard mitigation grant funds (Public Law 106-390). This Act established a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The City of Berkeley and the State of California OES plans (covering UC Berkeley) were accepted by FEMA in late 2004.

The City of El Cerrito and the Kensington Fire Protection District have worked in conjunction with other Contra Costa County Cities and Special Districts to update and enhance their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP). The plan was finalized and approved by Council this year which identify risks within their jurisdictions and allow them be able to receive pre disaster mitigation grants. High risk priorities identified in the LHMP include reducing the risk of wildfire within their jurisdictions.

Goal: *Continue Citizen emergency training programs.*

Objective: *Maintain citizen emergency programs, such as CORE and CERT.*

Status: Berkeley, El Cerrito, Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) and Oakland have continued to find funding to support their CERT programs that help prepare citizens for emergencies. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory offers training to their employees.

El Cerrito and Kensington continue to enhance public awareness and provide public education in disaster preparedness and response. Their program is an all risk emergency preparedness program, training for earthquake, flood, wildland urban interface fire defensible space, terrorism and will begin training citizens to handle large-scale pet emergencies and sheltering. To reach a broader citizen base, El Cerrito and Kensington has begun working with their neighborhood watch programs to ensure a diverse and comprehensive training program is delivered. The program teaches all required CERT components and standards and adds these additional programs for continuing education.

MOFD continues to support the Lamorinda area CERT program that trains citizens in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda in emergency preparedness. Their Emergency Preparedness Coordinator continues to build relationships with these groups to increase efficiency, cooperation and consistency. Education relating to creating defensible space and surviving fires in the wildland urban interface is included in the curriculum presented to all Lamorinda CERT students.

Oakland continues to train its citizens through Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) in addition to public education program in the schools. Early in October, the CORE program sponsored a networking social to encourage CORE members from across the city to connect with other CORE volunteers. See www.oaklandnet.com/fire/core/resources.html.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Emergency Services Staff has also taught CERT classes in the last few years. The class is designed to educate people about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their work areas and trains them in basic response skills. It is voluntarily open to all staff.

All three cities coordinate and train amateur radio enthusiasts and promote citizen involvement in awareness programs. The Oakland Radio Communications Association (ORCA) ham radio operators continue to refine their emergency system by participating in monthly training and testing of equipment, as well as conducting on November 2, 2013 a formal annual test of their full system with a Simulated Emergency Testing (SET) at all Oakland fire stations. This year they supported the April 27th CORE exercise and also sponsored an amateur radio technician license class with licensing tests. This year's CORE drill focused on neighborhood evacuation and emergency communication at the individual level, within each neighborhood, to other neighborhoods and to the City's Emergency Operations Center.

Goal: Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training.

Objective: Continue to evaluate the performance of the Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) equipment

Status: The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) continues to be included as a line item in East Bay Regional Park District's annual budget to support maintenance of four stations that are representative of large portions of the East Bay Hills and surrounding regions. In 2009 Oakland fire Department replaced its two nearly obsolete RAWS with new, state-of-the-art equipment. These stations, together with four RAWS owned by other agencies in the two county area, form part of a National Fire Danger Rating System network. Up to date information from these stations and others that serve the HEF membership can be found at www.ebparks.org/about/fire/raws.

Objective: Conduct interagency training in systems operations and development of user protocols.

Objective: Expand interagency prescribed burns for training and fuel management purposes. 1) Conduct a two day Wildland Fire Academy. 2) Conduct two interagency fire exercises and prescribed burns.

Status: During the region's MRA drills and training, the City of El Cerrito and the Kensington Fire Protection District participated in the annual Mutual Response Area Exercise (MRA) with the City of Berkeley and other participating agencies. During this exercise, participating agencies conducted strategic fire apparatus assignment and response for a major wildfire in the Berkeley Hills.

EBRPD conducted two live fire training exercises that also served as grassland restoration projects. Firefighters attending the exercises practiced hose lays and mobile attack. As in years past, EBRPD will invite HEF members and other agencies to join their Basic Wildland Training courses (S-190, S-130) in years when the courses are scheduled for new firefighters at the District. In September 2012, Berkeley graduated 11 recruits from the Berkeley Fire Academy, an annual refresher training for existing firefighters.

Objective: Expand public education programs

Status: HEF members continue to provide information to the local communities through various programs and direct home owner association contacts. In 2008 the HEF had the opportunity to customize a DVD developed by Habitat Media for FireSafe Marin. The DVD continues to be used by the HEF Members and neighboring jurisdictions in their Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) programs.

The **Oakland** Wildfire Prevention District (WPAD) created a short DVD help educate new and to remind long time residents in the high fire danger zone the importance and benefits of the District. Wendy Tokuda narrated using Channel 2 footage from the 1991 Firestorm and members from the WPAD Advisory Committee participated. It can be viewed from the home page of the WPAD website www.Oaklandnet.com/Wildfireprevention.

To enhance the free chipping program that's available to the **Oakland** assessment district, "A Block Chipping Party" concept encourages neighbors to organize their block(s) for increased participation. The chipping flyer/form, the calendar postcard and other pertinent information has been updated and posted to the website: www.OaklandWPD.org. This



information and fire prevention articles have been published in local newspapers.

In 2006 a resolution proclaimed the third Saturday in October as Wildfire Prevention Day in the City of Oakland. National Fire Prevention week in October is addressed with OFD special events. There has been participation with the Burn Foundation, National Night Out, FEMA, and over a dozen other largely attended public safety fairs and programs. Materials have been received by Wildfire Prevention Assessment District City Councilmember's for distribution to their constituents at meetings and special events. OFD has utilized the DVD, "Bay Area On Fire" during presentations to Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils and Home Owner's Associations. Networking for sponsorship to order additional copies of the DVD, support outreach and education has been conducted through a variety of Oakland's Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce venues. Monthly meetings have been attended in partnership with other city/county agencies and private corporations for participation with their annual events. Signs have been created for contractor's to post while working on vegetation management projects to inform residents about the use and value of their assessment fee.

Goal: *Plan and conduct public safety and outreach programs to improve public awareness during the 2011 fire season*

Objective: *Issue information on fire safety to newspapers and other media outlets.*

Objective: *Conduct Public Safety Programs during fire season.*

Objective: *Maintain and update HEF website and e-mail*

Objective: *Develop a compendium for homeowners of existing research about common landscape plants and fuel management treatments.*

Status: SLC members participated in public safety and education outreach programs including response to requests for information from local newspapers, radio and television. Oakland continues to educate and prepare students through its Junior Fire Marshal and Public Education programs in the Fire Prevention Bureau, as well as through CORE. The HEF web site www.hillsemergencyforum.org and hillsemergencyforum@comcast.net e-mail continues to provide information about the HEF and an electronic method to connect with the organization.

The SLC continues to look for opportunities to link with other relevant research. They regularly share information about continuing or new pests in the area such as the Light Brown Apple Moth and the spread of Sudden Oak Death. This includes incorporating quarantine restrictions and best management practices into fuel reduction contracts.

Goal: *Strengthen media coordination among Agency Representatives*

Objective: *Provide information briefing materials and sessions as required to cover local issues.*

Objective: *Support the HEF joint information system, including the prescribed burn notification protocol.*

Status: The Staff Liaison Committee distributes materials and conducts briefing sessions with information officers (IOs) highlighting issues attractive to local media in order to continue reinforcing regional protocols, multi-agency preparedness and response actions.

Goal: *Inspect and maintain readiness level of infrastructure, such as fire roads.*

Objective: *Evaluate storm damage from winter rains and refurbish fire roads as needed.*

Objective: *Maintain existing fire roads.*

Status: HEF members continue the annual process of evaluating storm damage and maintaining fire roads where required.

Response

Goal: *Maintain and refine formal Mutual Response*

Status: Formal Mutual Response Agreements (MRAs), some of which are over twenty years old, continue to be effective between fire agencies in the Oakland-Berkeley hills area. The area covered by MRAs has expanded to the east side of the hills through discussions with Moraga Orinda Fire District. During fires in areas of “mutual threat,” both Alameda County and Contra Costa County Fire Departments also provide aid. The Santa Clara Unit of CAL FIRE continues to provide support; backfilling positions of suppression personnel. City of Berkeley and Oakland MRA radio procedures are consistent with the rest of Alameda, Contra Costa and CAL FIRE agencies using the statewide mutual aid channel CAL FIRE Tac2 (with a back up of “white fire”).

Goal: *Monitor and support the implementation of SEMS by EBFCC/ HEF agencies*

Objective: *Monitor implementation of Gov. Code 8607 (SEMS) requirements.*

Objective: *Expand mutual aid agreements with water utilities. Work with statewide program to increase signatories.*

Status: Each agency in the HEF monitors their own plans and training related to the state-wide Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Continued training and coordination in the uniform Incident Command System (ICS) is provided at each of the mutual aid drills. As of this year, the state wide mutual aid agreement has been signed by 135 water utilities. EBMUD has signed a mutual assistance agreement with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Las Vegas Valley Water District.

2014 Hills Emergency Forum Goals

Annual Focus

- Collaboration with Other Agencies
- Legislative Outreach
- Public Education
- Special Projects

*Primary
Responsibility*

Assessment

- Assess critical infrastructure support systems, operation plans, and public concerns. (SLC)
- Support continued funding for fuel hazard assessment and mitigation programs. (SLC)

Prevention/ Mitigation

- Incorporate recommendations from the Fuel Management Plan and support AB 337 information-sharing requirements. (SLC)
- Promote implementation of fire code compliance programs. (SLC)
- Continue annual fuel reduction actions. (SLC)

Preparedness

- Provide continued support for coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans. (SLC)
- Continue Citizen emergency training programs. (SLC)
- Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training. (EBFCC)
- Plan and conduct public safety and outreach programs to improve public awareness during the 2014 fire season. (SLC)
- Strengthen media coordination among Agency Representatives. (SLC)
- Inspect and maintain readiness level of infrastructure, such as fire roads. (EBFCC)

Response

- Maintain and refine formal Mutual Response Agreements. (EBFCC)
- Monitor and support the implementation of SEMS by EBFCC/ HEF agencies. (EBFCC)

Hills Emergency Forum 2014 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
A. Assessment			
1. Water system	a. Continue quarterly meetings with fire jurisdictions regarding water supply and delivery issues.	Ongoing	EBMUD
2. Fire Response	a. Revise fire response operation plans to incorporate 2013 review comments.	October 2014	EBFCC
	b. Conduct annual review of local fire response plans for urban-wildland intermix fires.	Annual	EBFCC
3. Public Comment	a. Acknowledge and evaluate public comments on threat zone management issues.	April 2014	SLC
4. Hazardous Fuel Assessment	a. Develop plan for update of 1995 GIS base data (vegetation & residential hazards).	October 2014	SLC
5. Funding for Mitigation Programs	a. Re-evaluate programs in light of Proposition 218 funding challenges.	October 2014	SLC
B. Prevention/ Mitigation			
1. Fuel Management Plan (FMP)	a. Incorporate FMP in all planning.	October 2014	SLC
	b. Monitor 2014 goat grazing contracts and joint maintenance operations.	October 2014	SLC

Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
2. Support implementation of AB 337 (Bates)	a. Share Geographical Information System (GIS) data with other agencies (upon request).	October 2014	VMC
3. Promote and support full implementation of municipal programs for fire safety codes, inspection and enforcement	a. Provide public education about code requirements.	Ongoing	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland
	b. Conduct and track inspections on public & private properties.	Annual	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland
	c. Issue notices of violations, monitor corrective action.	Annual	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland
	d. Report on inspection and compliance programs.	Annual	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland
4. Fuel Reduction	a. Continue annual maintenance of existing fuelbreaks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EBRPD: Maintain 15 miles of existing fuelbreak. Control suckers from cut eucalyptus stumps. ❖ EBMUD: Maintain 1.5 miles of multi-agency fuelbreaks within District lands. Remove suckers from 19 acres of eucalyptus stumps in Oakland urban wildland interface. Manage ridgetop annual grasslands. ❖ UCB: Maintain 8 miles of defensible space, including roadside and fire trail maintenance. ❖ Oakland: Maintain 4 miles of existing fuelbreak. 	Annual	EBRPD EBMUD UCB
	b. Continue fuel reduction (including removing hazardous trees on public property). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EBRPD: Thin stands of eucalyptus trees in Anthony Chabot Park. 	October 2014	Oakland SLC EBRPD

Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p>B. Mitigation (continued)</p> <p>4. Fuel Reduction (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EBMUD: Maintain 15 acres using goat grazing. Maintain 10 acres by hand labor. Continue selective removal in ridgetop Eucalyptus groves, culling 1,000 stems per year. Maintain 1.2 mile grassland fuel break along ridge at Grizzly Peak Blvd and Fish Ranch Road. ❖ UCB: Maintain 37 acres using goat grazing. Maintain an additional 18 acres using hand crews. Manage 15 acres to develop and maintain ground force fire suppression zone at ridgetop interface with Panoramic Hill residential area. Manage 25 acres at Claremont Canyon Headslope for eucalyptus resprouts (Phase 1 - 3 removal projects) . Continue Phase 4 selective culling of eucalyptus and pine. ❖ Berkeley: Continue use of hand crews to reduce fuels on public lands. ❖ El Cerrito Continue use of hand crews, machinery and prescribed fire to reduce fuels on public lands and at buffer between City and EBRPD park lands. ❖ Oakland: Continue use of goat grazing and hand crews to reduce fuels on 320 acres of public lands. ❖ LBNL: Maintain 170 acres to reduce potential wildland fire effects. Manage 30 acres to maintain a Striketeam Fire Suppression Line at midcanyon wildland interface. Manage 20 acres to intermix zone standards to minimize effect of firebrand, and to minimize other ignitions on developed side of interface. Manage 20 acres to permit ground force suppression at border of natural areas within lower canyon intermix zone. 		<p>EBMUD</p> <p>UCB</p> <p>Berkeley</p> <p>El Cerrito</p> <p>Oakland</p> <p>LBNL</p>

Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead	
B. Mitigation (continued) 4. Fuel Reduction (cont.)	c. Continue Berkeley's and Oakland's curbside vegetation recycling programs for private lands in hills (June - October).	Annual	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland	
	d. Evaluate the potential for sharing specialized equipment (for brush-clearing and chipping) with HEF agencies.	October 2014	SLC	
	e. Foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the buffer zone identified in the Fuel Management Plan.	October 2014	SLC	
C. Preparedness	1. Promote coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans	a. Ensure that General Plans contain updated state-mandated Safety Elements that are compatible between jurisdictions.	October 2014	SLC
	2. Maintain citizen training	a. Maintain citizen emergency programs, such as CERT	October 2014	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland MOFD
	3. Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training	a. Continue to evaluate performance of the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) equipment.	May-14	EBFCC
		b. Conduct interagency training in systems operations and develop user protocols.	October 2014	EBFCC

Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead	
C. Preparedness (continued)	3. Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training (cont.)	c. Expand interagency prescribed burns for training and fuel management purposes.	October 2014	EBFCC
		1) Participate in the regional two-day Wildland Fire Academy.	Annual	EBFCC
		2) Conduct two interagency fire exercises and prescribed burns.	Annual	EBFCC
	4. Improve Public Awareness	a. Issue information on fire safety to newspapers and other media outlets.	Annual	SLC/ EBFCC
		b. Expand public education programs during Wildland Fire Prevention Month (June).	Ongoing	EBFCC
		c. Conduct Public Safety Programs during fire season.	October 2013	SLC
		d. Maintain and update a HEF website. http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org and e-mail hef@value.net	October 2014	SLC
	5. Media Support	a. Provide information briefing materials and sessions as required to cover local issues.	Ongoing	SLC
		b. Support the HEF joint information system, including the prescribed burn notification protocol.	October 2014	SLC
	6. Maintain Fire Roads within the study area	a. Evaluate storm damage from winter rains and refurbish fire roads as needed.	Annual	EBFCC

Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead				
C. Preparedness (continued) 6. Maintain Fire Roads within the study area (cont.)	b. Maintain 155 miles of existing fire roads. Continue to maintain 6 miles of existing fire roads. Maintain 25 miles of existing fire roads. Maintain 8 miles of existing fire roads.	Ongoing	EBRPD EBMUD Oakland UCB				
				D. Response 1. Mutual Response Agreements (MRAs)	a. Refine MRAs among EBFCC members.	Ongoing	EBFCC
	b. Expand mutual aid agreements with water utilities. Work with statewide program to increase signators.	Ongoing	EBMUD				

5.0 Appendices

2013 Hills Emergency Forum Goals

2013 Hills Emergency Forum Workplan

Staff Liaison Committee Members

2013 Hills Emergency Forum Goals

Annual Focus

- Collaboration with Other Agencies
- Legislative Outreach
- Public Education
- Special Projects

*Primary
Responsibility*

Assessment

- Assess critical infrastructure support systems, operation plans, and public concerns. *(SLC)*
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Prevention/ Mitigation

- Incorporate recommendations from the Fuel Management Plan and support AB 337 information-sharing requirements. *(SLC)*
- Promote implementation of fire code compliance programs. *(SLC)*
- Continue annual fuel reduction actions. *(SLC)*

Preparedness

- Provide continued support for coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans. *(SLC)*
- Continue Citizen emergency training programs. *(SLC)*
- Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training. *(EBFCC)*
- Plan and conduct public safety and outreach programs to improve public awareness during the 2013 fire season. *(SLC)*
- Strengthen media coordination among Agency Representatives. *(SLC)*
- Inspect and maintain readiness level of infrastructure, such as fire roads. *(EBFCC)*

Response

- Maintain and refine formal Mutual Response Agreements. *(EBFCC)*
- Monitor and support the implementation of SEMS by EBFCC/ HEF agencies. *(EBFCC)*

Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

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4. Hazardous Fuel Assessment	a. Develop plan for update of 1995 GIS base data (vegetation & residential hazards).	October 2013	SLC
5. Funding for Mitigation Programs	a. Re-evaluate programs in light of Proposition 218 funding challenges.	October 2013	SLC
B. Prevention/ Mitigation			
1. Fuel Management Plan (FMP)	a. Incorporate FMP in all planning.	October 2013	SLC
	b. Monitor 2013 goat grazing contracts and joint maintenance operations.	October 2013	SLC

Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
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3. Promote and support full implementation of municipal programs for fire safety codes, inspection and enforcement	a. Provide public education about code requirements.	Ongoing	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland
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Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

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Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

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	d. Evaluate the potential for sharing specialized equipment (for brush-clearing and chipping) with HEF agencies.	October 2013	SLC	
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Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

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Hills Emergency Forum 2013 Workplan

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	b. Expand mutual aid agreements with water utilities. Work with statewide program to increase signators.	Ongoing	EBMUD				



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